

capital of Placentia is also the city and bishoprick of Placentia, on the Pô.

Q. What is the state of Modena?

A. That state lies east of Parma; it is a fruitful country, producing corn and wine; it comprehends two dutchies, Modena and Reggio, both which bear the name of their capital.

Q. To whom does it belong?

A. For three centuries past it has belonged to the house of Este, one of the most ancient families in Italy; and, though the duke is a sovereign, he is nevertheless tributary to the emperor, to whom he pays forty thousand crowns *per annum*.

Q. What do you observe of Modena?

A. Modena is a bishoprick; a large, ancient, and populous city; it is the ordinary residence of the sovereign. The remarkable buildings are, the duke's palace, and the citadel, which is very strong.

Q. What is the dutchy of Mantua?

A. It is situated east of the Milanese; it produces corn, wine and rice; has excellent pasture, and abounds in cattle:—For a long time it belonged to the family of Goznagua, as a tenure relevant of the empire; Charles, the last duke, dying without issue, in 1708, this state returned to the emperor Charles VI. then to the empress queen of Hungary, and now it belongs to the reigning emperor, who has united it to the dutchy of Milan.

Q. Which is the capital of the dutchy?

A. Mantua; a bishoprick, and fortified city, on a lake formed by the river Mincio; it is a large and populous city.

Q. What other dutchies do you remark?

A. Besides those already spoken of, there are others in that part of Italy; the most considerable are Guastalla and Mirandola, which had formerly their sovereigns:—The first was ceded to the infant Don Philip, by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748; and the second was bought by the duke of Modena, in 1711; each bears the name of its capital.

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## LESSON LXIX.

*ITALY continued.*

*Of the States of VENICE.*

Q. WHERE are the states of Venice?

A. The states of Venice are much the largest of those in the northern division of Italy: they are situated east of the Milanese, having the gulf of Venice on the south, and Germany on the north.

These states formed themselves gradually, when various people of the north, and particularly the Huns, made an irruption into Italy; under the command of their king Attila; many of the inhabitants of Lombardy, to screen themselves from the cruelty of those barbarians, took shelter in the Lagoones, which are little islands at the extremity of the Adriatic gulf.

Q. How were they governed?

A. At first every island had its particular governor; but in 709 they united,—formed but one state, and elected one chief for the whole, with the title of doge, or duke; their extensive trade soon made them rich and powerful: they took an active part in the crusades, and in the Christian wars against the Turks; they even made several conquests in the Levant; but some of them have been retaken by the Turks.

Q. Who created a faction against them?

A. The pope, the emperor, and the kings of France and Spain, entered into a confederation against the Venetians, who nevertheless escaped the impending danger. In 1606, the pope, Paul V. excommunicated the Venetians, and interdicted the whole republic; but by the resolution of the senate, and the mediation of Henry IV. king of France, an accommodation was brought about. In 1618, the Spanish ambassador at Venice, formed a conspiracy against the city, which was to have destroyed it entirely; but the horrid plot was happily

pily discovered the day before it was to have been put in execution.

Q. What system have the Venetians adopted?

A. That of observing an exact neutrality in the wars of other European powers; and by that method they constantly preserve peace at home.

Q. How is Venice governed?

A. The government is absolutely aristocratic; the nobles have all the sovereignty in their own hands. It is the oldest republick in Europe. The chief magistrate is the doge, and his place is for life; he is president of all the councils, but, like the other senators, he has but one vote: he cannot go out of the city without the consent of the senate.

Q. How many councils are there?

A. There is the grand council, composed of all the nobles who have attained the age of thirty; the council of Pregadi, or the senate; the college of twenty six, which gives audience to ambassadors; the council of ten, who are the criminal judges; and the spiritual council, which settles religious affairs.

Q. Which is the capital of the states?

A. Venice, an archbishoprick, with the title of patriarch; it is surnamed the rich, and is one of the greatest trading, and most populous cities in Europe; the chief manufactures are silk, stuff, and looking-glasses. The city is built upon seventy-two islands, which all have a communication with each



each other by a great number of bridges : the houses are all built upon piles ; the canals form the streets, which they cross in boats, called gondolas. The principal edifices are the church and place of St. Mark, which are very beautiful, the ducal palace, the arsenal, which is one of the best-furnished in Europe, and the Rialto-bridge of one arch only, ninety feet wide.

Q. What ceremony have they ?

A. Every year, on Ascension-day, the doge, accompanied by the senate, mounting a vessel, called the Bucentaur, advances into the ship-road, and performs the ceremony of espousing the sea, to show the republic's empire over the gulf of Venice.

Q. How is the state of Venice divided ?

A. It is divided into several provinces, which they call *terra firma* states, and are a part of Italy. All these provinces have the names of their capitals. The principal cities are Padua, surnamed the learned, which has a famous university ; Verona, where there is an amphitheatre built by the Romans ; Bergamo, famous for its tapestry ; Bresse, Vicenza, the Marca Trevigiana, trading and fortified cities. It is also in possession of part of Dalmatia, and some islands in the gulf of Venice ; we will speak of them in the ensuing lesson.

LESSON LXX.

ITALY continued.

*The Grand Dutchy of Tuscany.*

Q. WHERE is the grand dutchy of Tuscany?

A. It is bounded north and east by mount Appenine; and by the Mediterranean south and west. The country abounds in every thing: there are quarries of marble, and mines of different metals.

Q. How was it formerly composed?

A. About two centuries ago it was composed of the republicks of Florence, Pisa, and Sienna, independent of each other, and which had gained their liberty during the wars of Italy. After a long war the Florentines subdued Pisa, and bought the territory of Sienna from the Spaniards, who had invaded it.

Q. What revolution happened at Florence?

A. The family of Medicis, one of the first in Florence, by their immense riches, and the protection of several popes, who were of that family, found means to become sovereigns there.—Alexander de Medicis, who was made duke of Florence in 1531, by the emperor Charles V. who had previously

viously given him his natural daughter in marriage; Cosmo, his cousin, who succeeded him in 1569, obtained of pope Pius V. the title of grand-duke of Tuscany, and acquired the city of Sienna; the last of that house was John Gaston, who dying without issue, in 1737, the grand duchy of Tuscany passed to the house of Lorraine, in exchange for the duchy of that name, as we have before observed.

Q. To whom does that state belong at present?

A. That state having devolved to Francis I. of Lorraine, who married Maria Theresa, queen of Hungary, it is now included in the possessions of the house of Austria: Francis I. with the consent of his eldest son, who was afterwards the emperor Joseph II. gave the grand duchy of Tuscany to the archduke Peter Leopold, his second son; but Joseph dying without issue, in 1790, Peter Leopold ascended the throne of Hungary and Bohemia, and has since been elected emperor; and with the consent of his eldest son, has given the grand duchy of Tuscany to his second son, Francis Joseph Charles, archduke of Austria, who is now in possession of it.

Q. How is the grand duchy divided?

A. Into three provinces; the Florentine, the Pisan, and the Siennese; the first in the east, and the two others in the west, on the coast of the Mediterranean.

Q. Which is the capital of the first?

A. Florence,

*A.* Florence, on the Arno; a large, well-built, and trading city, famed the handsome; it is an archbishoprick, with an university; the palace of the grand dukes contains a valuable library, and many antiquities. There are besides a great number of magnificent buildings.

*Q.* Which is the capital of the Pisan?

*A.* Pisa, an archbishoprick, and a large city, but not populous, and which has lost much of its ancient splendour.

*Q.* What other cities are there?

*A.* There is Leghorn, a bishoprick, a sea-port, and a fortified city, where they carry on the greatest trade of all Italy, on account of the free exercise of religion being allowed to the merchants who settle there.

*Q.* Which is the capital of the Siennese?

*A.* Sienna, an archbishoprick; a large and fortified city; the cathedral is greatly admired, for its being covered over, on all parts, with black and white marble. In 1557, when Philip II. king of Spain, sold the Siennese to the Florentines, he reserved some fortified places on the coasts of that province; those are called the garrisoned states, and belonged to the Spaniards till 1707.

*Q.* To whom do those places belong now.

*A.* After that the emperor took possession of them; but in 1736, they were given to Don Carlos, king of Naples, afterwards king of Spain, by a treaty between that crown and the house of Austria.

*Q.* What



Q. What are those places?

A. The principal are, Orbitello, Porto-Hercolo, and Porto-Longono; the last is in the isle of Elbe, which is near the coast of Tuscany. In that island the grand duke possesses a fortified place, called Porto Ferrara.

Q. What is found near the grand dutchy?

A. On the north we meet the little republick of Lucca, which has subsisted for three centuries; it is under the protection of the emperor.

Q. How is it governed?

A. Aristocratically; the nobles chuse among themselves a chief, called the Gonfalonier, who is but two months in office: the capital is Lucca, surnamed the industrious; it is a bishoprick, and a fortified and rich city; the inhabitants trade considerably in silks, wines, and olives; the port is Viareggio.

## LESSON LXXI.

ITALY *continued.*

*The States of the* CHURCH.

Q. WHAT are the states of the church?

A. They are that part of Italy of which the pope is sovereign; they are so called because

the Roman Catholics look upon the pope as the visible chief of the church. They are situated south and east of the grand duchy of Tuscany, and north of the kingdom of Naples.

Q. How were those states formed?

A. Originally, the Popes were only the bishops of Rome; they afterwards became the temporal sovereigns of that city, and of all its dependencies. The frequent wars of Italy, in the past centuries, gave them various opportunities of increasing their power and extending their dominions, particularly those factions known by the names of Guelphs and Ghibelins, in 1137.

Q. What were those factions?

A. They were two parties which divided all Italy: the former held for the pope, and the latter for the emperor, whose interests were in opposition to each other. It is to be remarked, that the separation of Italy into so many different states, assisted the popes to acquire those which they found most suitable, and at their devotion.

Q. What do those states produce?

A. The air is not so wholesome in the states of the church as in the other parts of Italy; they have often epidemical disorders near Rome; but the soil is good.

Q. How is it governed?

A. Monarchically; the pope, who is sovereign of it, sends legates, or governors, to the distant provinces.

Q. Is

Q. Is the sovereign elective ?

A. Yes; the pope is elected by seventy cardinals, who are as princes of the Catholic church, out of which he must have at least two-thirds of the votes, in order to proceed on those elections: the cardinals assemble in a place called the conclave, in which they are shut up, and cannot go out till the pope is elected.

Q. What title does he take ?

A. The Catholics believe the pope to be the vicar of Jesus Christ upon earth; for that reason they call him the holy-father, or his holiness.

Q. Who is the present pope ?

A. Before his election he was called Cardinal Braschi; but took the name of Pius VI. in 1775.

Q. What extraordinary journey did he make ?

A. Having been informed that the emperor Joseph II. had suppressed some convents, and made alterations in ecclesiastical affairs, he resolved to make a journey to Vienna, to confer on that subject with the emperor. He was received with great honour at the court of Vienna, and returned to his own residence.

Q. What do the states of the church comprehend ?

A. They contain many provinces, which may be reduced to eight principal; there are three of them west of the Apennine mountains, and five east and north of it. The three first are the  
country

country of Rome, the patrimony of St. Peter, and Umbria. The five others are the Marche of Ancona, the dutchy of Urbino, Romanya, the Boulonnese, and the Ferrarois.

Q. Which is the capital of those states?

A. Rome, on the Tiber, in the country of Rome, ~~is named the Saint, the ordinary resi-~~  
 dence of the pope, and most of the cardinals  
 who are his council. This city was built 753

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*A.* Ancona, a sea-port ; and Loretto, a small city, famous for the concourse of pilgrims who resort there to see the holy chamber, which they pretend to have been brought there from Nazareth by the angels, and to be that which was inhabited by the blessed Virgin Mary.

*Q.* Which are the capitals of the four other provinces ?

*A.* Urbino, capital of the duchy of that name.

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*Q.* Which is the capital of those states?

*A.* Rome, on the Tiber, in the country of Rome, surnamed the Saint, the ordinary residence of the pope, and most of the cardinals who are his council. This city was built 753 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, and was a long time the capital of a vast empire, and the first city in the world; but it has been so often plundered and taken, that it is now much less and populous than it was formerly. There we see the superb church of St. Peter, the largest and finest of all Christendom; the pope's palace, called the Vatican; the castle of St. Angelo, a modern fortification; and several precious monuments of antiquity. There is also in the country of Rome the city of Ostia, a bishoprick, and a sea-port, a very ancient city on the Tiber.

*Q.* What cities are there in St. Peter's Patrimony?

*A.* Viterba the capital, a bishoprick; and Civita-Vecchia, a sea-port, where the pope keeps his gallies.

*Q.* Which is the capital of Umbria?

*A.* The bishoprick of Spoletta.

*Q.* What is there in the Marche d'Ancona?

*A.* Ancona,



*A.* Ancona, a sea-port ; and Loretto, a small city, famous for the concourse of pilgrims who resort there to see the holy chamber, which they pretend to have been brought there from Nazareth by the angels, and to be that which was inhabited by the blessed Virgin Mary.

*Q.* Which are the capitals of the four other provinces ?

*A.* Urbino, capital of the duchy of that name; Ravenna, surnamed the ancient, capital of Romagna ; Bologna, capital of the Bolognese ; and Ferrara, capital of the Ferrarois : all these cities are archbishopricks. Between the duchy of Urbino and Romagna, there is the little republic of St. Marino, under the protection of the pope and the emperor. It is governed by its own laws, and its capital is a bishoprick of the same name.

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## LESSON LXXII.

*ITALY continued.*

*Of the Kingdom of NAPLES.*

*Q.* WHERE is the kingdom of Naples?

*A.* The kingdom of Naples is the most extensive of all the states of Italy, and occupies  
the

the southern part of it ; has the states of the church on the north, and the sea on the three other sides. The climate is hot, the air is pure and wholesome, and the soil fruitful in every thing. It produces manna and other medicinal drugs. The country is subject to earthquakes.

*Q.* To whom did it first belong?

*A.* At the time that the Roman empire was divided, the kingdom of Naples fell to the emperors of the east, from whom the Saracens took it in the ninth century ; but it was again taken from them two hundred years after, by some Norman gentlemen. These laid the foundation of that kingdom, which they and their descendants possessed for some time ; and in 1186 it passed to the house of Swabia, by the marriage of Constance, the heiress of that kingdom, with the emperor Henry VI. That family was in possession of it till the tragic death of young Conradin, the last prince of that house ; after which it fell, in 1268, to the house of Anjou ; of which the first king was Charles, count of Provence.

*Q.* Who were the sovereigns who contended for this kingdom ?

*A.* Jane II. of Anjou, dying without issue, in 1495, Ferdinand V. king of Arragon, and Charles VIII. of France, who had pretensions on that kingdom, took up arms to support them ; after which, Naples was shared between the king of Arragon and Lewis XII. who had succeeded

ceeded to Charles VIII.; but war soon broke out again, and the French were entirely excluded.— Since that it remained a part of Spain, till the beginning of the present century, and was given up to the house of Austria by the treaty of Baden, in 1741.

Q. To whom was it finally allotted?

A. It passed in 1736, to Don Carlos, infant of Spain; and that prince being called to the crown of Spain, his third son was crowned king of Naples, by the name of Ferdinand IV. in 1760.

2. What title does the sovereign take?

*A.* He is called king of the Two Sicilies, because the kingdom of Naples was formerly called Sicily on this side the Faro; and his eldest son takes the title of duke of Calabria.

2. To whom is this kingdom tributary?

A. It is relevant of the popes, who for a long time past have arrogated to themselves a sovereignty over it; in virtue of that, the king of Naples pays him the yearly tribute of a jenet, or white pad, with seven thousand ducats.

Q. How is it governed?

A. It is an absolute monarchy; the crown is hereditary, even to females in failure of males. The king decides in religious affairs, as a legate of the Holy See.

Q. How is that kingdom divided?

S A. Into

*A.* Into four grand provinces; the territory of Labour, in the west; the Abbruzza, in the north; the Pouillia, in the east; and Calabria, in the south: each of these provinces contains three others of small extent.

*Q.* Which is the capital of all the kingdom?

*A.* Naples, a bishoprick and sea-port, in the territory of Labour, and surnamed the Noble; this is one of the largest and most magnificent built cities in Europe, and has a considerable trade. Near the city is Mount Vesuvius, a famous volcano, which continually emits a thick smoke, and sometimes a torrent of red-hot lava, which overspreads all the neighbouring country: when this lava grows cold, it becomes as hard as stone, and in fact, they cut it into square pieces, with which they pave their streets.

*Q.* What has been discovered of late years?

*A.* Near Portici, one of the king's pleasure-houses, they have discovered the ruins of the ancient city of Herculaneum, which was destroyed by an earthquake under the reign of the emperor Titus, in the year 81.

*Q.* What other cities are there in the territory of Labour?

*A.* The principal cities are, the archbishoprick of Capua, an ancient city; and Gaetta, a sea-port and fortified place, on the frontiers towards the north. There is also the archbishoprick



rick of Salerno, Caserta, a royal palace; and the abbey of Mount Cassino.

*Q.* What did the popes possess in that province?

*A.* They were a long time in possession of the city and archbishoprick of Benevento, with its dependencies, which are surrounded by the territories of Labour. In 1768, the king of Naples had united that province to his domain, but made a restitution of it to the Holy See in 1774.

*Q.* What cities are there in the other provinces?

*A.* In the Abbruzza they have Chieti, an archbishoprick, towards the north, and Aquila, a fortified place; in the Pouilla, there is Bari, the capital, and two sea-ports, Tarinte and Brindisi: in Calabria, Cozenza and Reggio, two archbishopricks; the latter is a good port, at the extremity of the kingdom, towards Sicily.

*Q.* What fatal event did Calabria experience?

*A.* They have had several violent earthquakes, by which great part of the coast has been swallowed up by the sea, in 1783, in which a great number of lives were lost, with the city of Reggio and its environs.

## L E S S O N LXXIII.

*Of the Islands of ITALY.*

Q. WHERE is Sicily situated ?

A. Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean ; it is situated south of the kingdom of Naples, and is separated from it by the strait or Faro of Messina : it is a fruitful soil, and produces great quantity of corn, for which reason it is called the granary of Italy. It also produces silk, oil, saffron, and many medicinal drugs.

Q. What is remarked on the history of that island.

A. Since the conquest which the Normans made of this island, when they also made themselves masters of Naples, it has almost ever been a part of that kingdom, and has had the same sovereign. Under the reign of Charles of Anjou, the Sicilians, dissatisfied with the French government, revolted and made a general slaughter of them in 1281. This massacre is known by the name of the Sicilian Vespers, because they chose that time to execute it.

Q. To whom does the island belong at present ?

A. It was given to Victor Amadeus, duke of Savoy, by the king of Spain ; but Amadeus, in

1720, gave it to the emperor, in exchange for the island of Sardinia. It now belongs to the king of Naples, who keeps a viceroy there.

Q. How is Sicily divided?

A. The island being of a triangular figure, it is divided into three vallies, which are the Valley of Mazara, in the west; that called Val Demona, in the north; and the Valley of Noto, in the south.

Q. Which is the capital?

A. Palermo, an archbishopsrick, in the valley of Mazara, a sea-port, and the residence of the viceroy. In the same province there is a sea-port called Trapani.

Q. What cities in Val Demona?

A. Messina, a sea-port and archbishopsrick, on the strait of that name: this is the richest and most trading city in the island, defended by several forts, but has been in great part ruined by an earthquake, in 1783. There is also Taormina, an ancient city.

Q. What is there in the valley of Noto?

A. There is Syracuse, an ancient sea-port town; Catania, a bishopsrick, near which is that famous volcano called Mount Etna or Gibello; and Cape Paffaro.

Q. Where is the island of Sardinia?

A. It is situated north of Sicily; it is called a kingdom. It is tolerably fruitful and well peopled, producing various fruits. They have plenty of

tunny-fish, and coral on the shore. This island, after having been long disputed by the Genoese and the Pisans, was conquered, in 1323, by the king of Arragon: since then it constituted part of the Spanish monarchy, till the beginning of this century, Philip V. having ceded it to the house of Austria by the treaty of Rastat, in 1714. The emperor Charles VI. gave it, as we said before, in exchange for Sicily, to the duke of Savoy, who is now sovereign of it, and keeps a vice roy there.

*Q.* How is Sardinia divided ?

*A.* Into two provinces or capes; Cape Cagliari in the south, and Cape Lugodori in the north. The capital is Cagliari, a pretty large city, the residence of the viceroy; it is an archbishoprick, and a sea-port. In the north of the island there is Sassari, a bishoprick and sea-port.

*Q.* Where is the island of Corsica situated ?

*A.* It is situated north of Sardinia, from which it is only separated by the strait of San Bonifacio. It is of no great produce, except on the coasts: it is a mountainous country, and full of forests.

*Q.* With what do they furnish other nations ?

*A.* Principally with fruits, oil, salt, and wood for shipping. They are an unpolished people, but good soldiers, and jealous of their liberty. This island is titled a kingdom, and for a long time belonged to the republic of Genoa; but the Corsicans, dissatisfied with their government,



ment, revolted in 1730, and have not been subjected since by the Genoese. In 1736 they elected for their sovereign, Theodore, baron of Newhoff; who, after a short time, left the island. The Genoese, aided at times by France, and at others by the emperor, had maintained themselves in possession of the capital, and some places on the coast: but the Corsicans, favoured by their mountains, had preserved their independence, and chose Pascal Paoli, one of their own countrymen, for their chief; who for several years defended their liberty with success. In short, the Genoese having lost all hope of recovering the island, determined to give it up to the French, who sent troops, and took possession of it in 1769. The capital is Bastia, towards the north; it is a sea-port, a bishoprick, and the residence of the governor. There are also two small cities, Ajaccio and Calvi.

Q. What is the island of Malta?

A.- It is a small island situated south of Sicily, to which the bishop is suffragan. It produces little more than fruits and wine. It belongs to the knights of St. John, or chevaliers of Malta, the richest and most powerful order in Christendom. It was given them in 1522, with the city of Tripoli, in Africa, by the emperor Charles V. after the knights had been obliged to quit the Holy Land and the island of Rhodes, where they had been long established: the chief

of the order is called the grand-master, and generally resides in the island, of which he is sovereign. The principal members are the grand-crosses and commanders. The capital is Malta, a bishoprick, and the strongest place in Europe; it sustained a famous siege against the Turks, in 1565. It is divided into three parts; the Valette, the Bourg, and the isle of St. Michael. The order of Malta has great possessions in most of the states of Europe. It is separated into seven provinces, each of which contains several priories and commanderies.

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## LESSON LXXIV.

### EUROPEAN TURKEY.

*Q.* WHAT is European Turkey?

*A.* It is that part of the Turkish empire which is situated in Europe, and which occupies the southern coast towards the east. It is bounded on the north by Hungary; by the Black Sea on the east; by the Mediterranean on the south; and by the gulf of Venice on the west.

*Q.* What do they possess besides?

*A.* They

*A.* They possess also many other provinces; and their empire is generally divided into twenty-four grand governments, of which there are five in Europe, eighteen in Asia, and one in Africa.

*Q.* Of what nature is the country?

*A.* As European Turkey is very extensive, the air, the climate, and the soil are very different. The southern part is subject to the plague. The soil in general would be greatly productive, were it not for the supineness of the Turks; and very populous, but for the rigour of the government.

*Q.* What is the origin of the Turks?

*A.* They take their origin from Tartary. After having served the Saracens as auxiliary troops in the seventh century, they revolted against them, and took the kingdom of Persia from them. They, after that, embraced the Mahometan religion, assembled all their tribes, and conquered a part of Asia, which belonged to the emperors of the east. Their chief was Osmyn, or Ottoman; he was the first who took the title of Sultan, in 1296, and is looked upon as the founder of the Turkish monarchy, the seat of which he established in the city of Bursa, in Asia. His successors extended their conquests more and more,—penetrated into Europe, and found means to destroy the eastern empire, then called the Grecian empire.

*Q.* Who

Q. Who were the most renowned of their sovereigns?

A. Those who have the most contributed to encrease the power of that nation are, Amurath I. Bajazet I. Amurath II. Mahomet II. Selim I. Soliman II. and Mahomet IV.

Q. What did Amurath I.?

A. He made himself master of part of Greece; and, in 1362, fixed the seat of his empire at Adrianople.

Q. What do you remark of Bajazet I.?

A. After having gained several battles over the Christians, and conquered the remainder of Greece, he was defeated and made prisoner by Tamerlane, in 1402, who condemned him to finish his days in an iron cage.

Q. What was Amurath II. remarkable for?

A. He extended his conquests towards the north, and had frequent wars in Hungary against the Christians, over whom he gained the famous battle of Varna, in 1444.

Q. What was Mahomet II.?

A. He was the greatest conqueror the Turks ever had; he entirely destroyed the empire of Greece, in 1453, and made himself master of Constantinople. Constantine Paleologus, the last emperor, was killed at the taking of this city.

Q. What did Selim I.?

A. He conquered Egypt, with part of Barbary, in 1517, and put an end to the empire of the Mammeluks.

Q. What



*Q.* What do you remark of Soliman II. ?

*A.* He took Belgrade and part of Hungary; and in 1522, he took the island of Rhodes from the Knights of St. John, and besieged Vienna, without success, in 1529; and the island of Malta, in 1565.

*Q.* What did Mahomet IV. ?

*A.* His reign was almost an incessant war with the house of Austria in Hungary, and with the Venetians, from whom he conquered the island of Candia, in 1669. He was deposed, and died in prison. From that time the Turks have been greatly checked by the emperors, who have entirely driven them out of Hungary; and also much restrained by the czar Peter the Great, and by Thamas-Kouli-Khan, king of Persia, who have deprived them of many provinces.

*Q.* Who were the last sultans ?

*A.* Achmet III. who concluded the treaty of Passarowitz, in 1718, with the Imperialists; Mahomet V. who made that of Belgrade in 1739; Mustapha III. who ascended the throne in 1757; Abdul Hamet, his brother, who succeeded him in 1774; and Selim III. the reigning sultan, proclaimed the 8th of April, 1789.

*Q.* What is the Turkish government ?

*A.* It is a monarchical, and even a despotic government; that is to say, that the sovereign is master of the lives and fortunes of his subjects, and that his will is above the laws. He takes  
the

Q. Who were the most renowned of their sovereigns?

A. Those who have the most contributed to encrease the power of that nation are, Amurath I. Bajazet I. Amurath II. Mahomet II. Selim I. Soliman II. and Mahomet IV.

Q. What did Amurath I.?

A. He made himself master of part of Greece; and, in 1362, fixed the seat of his empire at Adrianople.

Q. What do you remark of Bajazet I.?

A. After having gained several battles over the Christians, and conquered the remainder of Greece, he was defeated and made prisoner by Tamerlane, in 1402, who condemned him to finish his days in an iron cage.

Q. What was Amurath II. remarkable for?

A. He extended his conquests towards the north, and had frequent wars in Hungary against the Christians, over whom he gained the famous battle of Varna, in 1444.

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the title of Sultan or Grand Signior ; he is called Highness ; his court is called the Ottoman Porte ; his prime minister is stiled the Grand Vizier ; he has a numerous corps of infantry for his guard, called Janissaries

Q. What is their religion ?

A. Their religion is the Mahometan, founded by the false prophet Mahomet, who lived about six hundred years after Jesus Christ. It consists in believing an only God, and Mahomet his sole prophet. This religion may be reduced to five principal precepts ;—prayer, abstinence from wine, fasting, alms, and pilgrimage to Mecca. It permits the plurality of wives.

Q. What is the Alcoran ?

A. It is looked upon by the Mahometans as their rule of faith. It is a book composed by Mahomet, and contains a mixture of passages from the holy scriptures, and a great number of absurdities. The chief of the religion is called Mufti ; they keep the Friday sacred ; their temples are called mosques ; they follow the lunar year ; and their epoch is the hegira, or flight of the prophet, who was forced to leave the city of Mecca in 622. In this part of Turkey there are a great number of Greek Christians subject to the Turks, and many Jews, who carry on trade with the free exercise of their different religions.

Q. What rivers have they ?

A. European



*A.* European Turkey has four capital rivers ; the Danube, the Niefter and the Nieper, which have their mouths in the Black Sea, and the Mariza, which crosses Romania, and enters into the Archipelago.

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## L E S S O N LXXV.

### EUROPEAN TURKEY *continue*

#### ROMANIA, BULGARIA, BOSNIA, *and* SERVIA.

Q. How is European Turkey divided ?

*A.* It is generally divided into two parts, one north and the other south, each of which is subdivided into a great number of provinces.

Q. What does the northern contain ?

*A.* It contains ten provinces,—four of which are entirely subject to the Turks,—four who pay them a tribute, and are under their protection,—and two which only belong to them in part.—The four subject to them are, Romania, Bulgaria, Servia, and Bosnia : the four tributary are, Little Tartary, Bessarabia, Moldavia, and Walachia : the two in which they have only a part, are Croatia and Dalmatia.

Q. How

Q. How are those provinces placed?

A. The four first are on the same line from east to west,—the four tributary are north of the first, and in the same direction,—the two last are towards the west, along the gulf of Venice.

Q. Where is Romania situated?

A. Part on the coast of the Black Sea, and part on that of the Archipelago. The soil is fruitful, and would be of great produce if properly cultivated; it is not peopled in proportion to its extent.

Q. Which is the capital?

A. The capital of that province, and of all the Ottoman empire, is Constantinople, a famous city, and the largest in Europe; it was founded by Constantine the Great, the first Christian emperor, in 326; it is the residence of the Mufti, and the seat of the Greek patriarch; it is situated on the strait which joins the Black Sea to the sea of Marmora; its port passes for the finest and surest in the world.

Q. What is there remarkable in that city?

A. The seraglio or palace, the ordinary residence of the sultan,—the castle of the seven towers,—and the principal mosque, which was formerly the church of St. Sophia. It has two large suburbs, Pera and Galata. In general the city is ill-built and very dirty.

Q. What other cities are there in Romania?

A. The

*A.* The chief are Adrianople, on the Mariza, an agreeable city, and well situated, where the Grand Signior sometimes holds his court,—and Gallipoli, a large and rich city, situated on the strait which joins the sea of Marmora to the Archipelago, at the entrance of which there are two castles, called the Dardanelles, which defend the entrance; one is in Europe, and the other in Asia.

*Q.* Where is Bulgaria situated?

*A.* It is a very large province, situated south of the Danube,—it extends as far as the mouth of that river in the Black Sea, on the east side of the river. Most part of the inhabitants are Christian, subject to the patriarch of Constantinople. They have very little trade, and their riches consist mostly in their herds. The principal cities are, Sophia, the capital, a large city, but not populous; Nicopoli, on the Danube; Varna and Silistria, which are fortified. Near these two last cities the Christians lost two memorable battles, in 1396 and 1444. After the last, the sages of Greece, foreseeing the ruin of the Eastern empire, retired into Italy,—and thus were sciences introduced into the west.

*Q.* Where is Servia?

*A.* Servia is a province of moderate extent, situated west of Bulgaria. It is a fruitful soil, but badly cultivated, and thinly peopled. The capital is Belgrade, on the confluence of the Save

and Danube. This city, after having been long in the possession of Austria, was given up to the Turks by the last treaty, in 1739; but the fortifications were demolished. There is also the fortress of Semendria, on the Danube; and Passarowitz, where the treaty was stipulated in 1718.

Q. What is Bosnia?

A. It is a province situated west of Servia, a mountainous country, producing little. They have a few silver mines. The house of Austria had part of it, but abandoned it by the last treaty. Its capital is Bagnaluc, a large and strong city, the residence of a Turkish governor: there is the fortress of Jassy, near Croatia,—and Serajo, a trading city.

## L E S S O N LXXVI.

### EUROPEAN TURKEY *continued.*

LITTLE TARTARY, BESSARABIA, MOLDAVIA,  
WALACHIA, CROATIA, *and* DALMATIA.

Q. How is Little Tartary situated?

A. It is situated between Russia, on the north, and the Black Sea, on the south;—it is the most eastern province of European Turkey:—it is called Little to distinguish it from Great Tartary,  
in



in Asia,—it is separated into northern and southern divisions, the latter forming the peninsula of Crimea,—the inhabitants have the same origin,—they are all Mahometans; the southern division produces little,—the Nogais Tartars, who inhabit it, are vagabonds, accustomed to plunder their neighbours,—they have no other habitations but those which they draw after them,—they live chiefly on the produce of their flocks, and are mostly on horseback.

Q. To whom is it subject?

A. The inhabitants of the southern division are subject to a prince called the Chan,—he is allied, or rather vassal to the Grand Sultan, and is obliged to take up arms in his defence. One of these princes having made incursions on the territories of Russia, the Czarina Ann, in 1736, sent an army into Little Tartary, which ransacked almost all the country.

Q. What change has happened in its political affairs?

A. By the last treaty between Russia and the Porte, the Chan of Little Tartary has been acknowledged independent of the Turkish empire, and has put himself under the protection of the Empress of Russia, who, with the consent of the Chan, took possession of the Crimea.

Q. What cities are there in Crimea?

A. The principal towns are, Bascaferai, the capital, and residence of the Chan,—Precop,

T

a fortress

fortress on the isthmus of that name ; and Caffa, a sea-port, on the Black Sea, a trading city belonging to the Turks.

*Q.* What is Bessarabia ?

*A.* It is situated between the mouths of the Danube and that of the Nieper ; it is inhabited by the Oczakow Tartars, and those of Budziac ; they serve as auxiliary troops to the Turks, who are masters of the principal cities of that province ; those cities are Oczakow and Begorod, both sea-ports, and fortified : there is also Bender, where Charles XII. retired after the battle of Pultowa, in 1709.

*Q.* What is Moldavia and Walachia ?

*A.* They are two large provinces that lie between Poland, Transylvania, and the Danube ; the soil is good, and produces wine ; their horses are held in esteem ; the inhabitants follow the Greek religion.

*Q.* How are those provinces governed ?

*A.* Each of these provinces is governed by its particular prince, called Vaivode, or Hospodar ; he is chosen by the Grand Signior, and is obliged to pay him an annual tribute, and take arms for him when ordered.

*Q.* Which are the capitals of those provinces ?

*A.* The capital of Moldavia is Jassy, on the Pruth, the residence of the Vaivode ; there is also the fortress of Chcczim. The capital of Walachia,

chia, is Tergovisk; the hospodar resides at Bucarest, a fortified place.

Q. What is Croatia?

A. Croatia lies west of Bosnia, along the gulf of Venice; it abounds in wine and oil,—the western part, which is much the largest, belongs to the house of Austria,—and the eastern, to the Turks; the inhabitants of Austrian Croatia follow the Greek religion, and are good soldiers,—their governor has the title of Ban,—the capital is Carlstadt, a fortified place, the residence of the governor; and the capital of Turkish Croatia is Vihitz, also fortified. Near Croatia there is a little province called Morlaquie, situated on the coast, which belongs to the Venetians,—its capital is Segna, a bishoprick, the inhabitants are a robust set of men, and good soldiers.

Q. What is Dalmatia?

A. Dalmatia was formerly a kingdom; it is situated on the gulf of Venice; it produces grain, wine and oil; it belongs to three powers, and consequently divided into as many parts.

Q. Which are those parts?

A. Venetian Dalmatia, in the north,—Zara is its capital, an archbishoprick and sea-port; it has also Sebenico, a bishoprick, with a fortification. Turkish Dalmatia, in the east, where we find Mostar, a large, fortified city, the residence of the Baeffa; and Ragusian Dalmatia, in the south.

Q. What is observed of the latter?

T 2

A. It

*A.* It forms a small republick, governed almost in the same manner as Venice; it maintains itself free, by paying a tribute to the Venetians, to the Turks, to the Emperor, and to the Pope; its capital is Ragusa, a bishoprick and sea-port; it is a large trading city, but subject to earthquakes. The island of Méléda, near the coast, belongs to the republick.

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## L E S S O N LXXVII.

### EUROPEAN TURKEY *in the South.*

*Q.* Where is Southern Turkey?

*A.* Southern Turkey in Europe, is that country known by the name of Greece, and situated south of Servia and Bulgaria, has the Archipelago on the east, the Mediterranean on the south, and the gulf of Venice on the west. Though the air of this country is wholesome, and the soil fertile, it is nevertheless at present ill cultivated, and thinly peopled;—this proceeds from the tyrannical treatment with which the Greek Christians are used by the Turks.

*Q.* How is it divided?

*A.* It



*A.* It is divided into two principal parts, which are, the *terra firma*, and the islands dependent on it. The continent of Greece, independent of the island, contains six provinces, two of which are in the north; those are Macedonia and Albania; two in the middle, Epirus and Theffaly; and two in the south, Livadia and the Morea.

*Q.* What is Macedonia?

*A.* Macedonia, formerly a kingdom, is situated west of Romania; its capital is Saloniki, at the extremity of the gulf of that name: it is a large ancient city, and a place of great trade: the Greeks have an archbishop there. In this province is Mount Santo, in a peninsula, and inhabited only by Grecian monks.

*Q.* Where is Albania?

*A.* It is situated between Macedonia and the gulf of Venice,—the former on the east, and the latter on the west. It is known for the warlike disposition of its natives; it was the country of the famous Scanderberg, who gained twenty-two battles over the Turks. The capital city is Scutari, a large and populous city, the residence of the Turkish bashaw: the other chief cities of this province are, Durazzo and Valona; both sea-ports.

*Q.* What is Theffaly?

*A.* Theffaly is in the middle of southern Turkey in Europe; it abounds in wine and fruits;

its capital is Janua, a large and well-peopled city, in the middle of a lake; there is also the archbishoprick of Larissa.

Q. What is Epirus?

A. Epirus lays opposite the narrowest part of the gulph of Venice; it was formerly a kingdom: its principal cities are, Larta, a sea-port, belonging to the Venetians, and Delphino, where the Turkish bassa resides.

Q. Where is Livadia?

A. It is situated south of Theffaly; it is tolerably well peopled: the city of Livadia is the capital, which is large and has a good trade:—There is also Lephante, on a gulf of the same name, a strong town, famous for a victory gained by the Christians over the Turks, in 1571.

Q. What is Morea?

A. It is a peninsula, joined to the continent by the isthmus of Corinth; its capital is Patras, an archbishoprick and trading city; there are also Modon, Napoli de Romania, Corinth, Malvezia, noted for its excellent wine, and Cape Metapan. The people of Moca are called Maniotes, who form a republick in the mountains, and preserve their independence, by paying a tribute to the Turks.

Q. How are the Turkish islands divided?

A. They are denominated under two classes: the first comprehends the islands of the Archipelago, east of *Terra Firma*; and the second the  
isles

isles at the entrance of the gulf of Venice, on the west.

Q. Which are those of the Archipelago?

A. Those that are found in the eastern part of the Mediterranean sea, between the continent and the coasts of Asia; they may be subdivided into large and small; the first are those of Candia and Negropont; the second are in great number.

Q. What is the island of Candia?

A. It is one of the largest in the Mediterranean, situated south of the Morea; it is a very wholesome air, and a fruitful soil, abounding in wine, fruits, and sugar; they also furnish woollen and silk. It was formerly called Crete: it was taken in the ninth century by Candax, the Saracen chief, who gave it his name: the Venetians took it from the Saracens, but the Turks made themselves masters of it about the middle of the last century; the Venetians had preserved three small fortresses in it, which they lost in 1715. The capital is Candia, an archbishoprick of the Greek church; it is a sea-port and fortified. This place is famous for a siege, which it sustained against the Turks, for three years, in the seventeenth century. The other cities are Retino, and Canée, a sea-port.

Q. What is the island of Negropont?

A. It stands east of Livadia, and is separated from it by a very narrow strait, which has an extraordinary tide; the flux and reflux appears several times in the day, without any regularity: this island

produces cotton; they have marble quarries, and amiantus stone, of which they make an incombustible flax; it belonged to the Venetians, but Mahomet II. took it from them in 1469; the capital of the island is Negropont, on the strait; it is a large trading city, and a well-fortified seaport, having a communication with the continent by a stone bridge, and a draw-bridge, which they raise for the passage of ships.

Q. Which are the small islands of the Archipelago?

A. The principal, for their extent and fertility, are Milo and Stalimene.

Q. What are the islands in the west?

A. Near the gulf of Venice, and towards the west, there are four principal islands, which are, Corfu, Cephalonia, Santa Maura, and Zante; they abound in wine and fruits, and belong to the Venetians.

Q. Which is the chief of these islands?

A. Corfu, situated at the entrance of the gulf of Venice; the capital is Corfu, an archbishoprick, and a strong place, which serves as a bulwark to the republick: the Turks besieged it in 1716, but were forced to raise the siege: the Venetians erected a statue in honour of general Schulemberg, who had defended it.



## S E C O N D P A R T.

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### L E S S O N LXXVIII.

#### *General Idea of ASIA.*

Q. **W**HERE is Asia situated?

A. Asia is the largest and the richest division of the ancient continent; it is situated east of Europe, from which it is separated by the sea of Asoph, the Don and the Duina.

Q. What are its boundaries?

A. It has the Frozen Ocean on the north; the Pacific Ocean on the east; the Indian Ocean on the south; the Red Sea, the Archipelago, and Europe on the west.

Q. What is its general produce?

A. It produces every thing that is rich; such as gold, silver, gems, pearls, silk and cotton, besides some other things natural to that soil, which do not grow well in any other country;  
such

such as all sorts of spices, aromatic herbs, tea and coffee.

Q. What animals have they?

A. They have many ferocious animals; such as lions, leopards, tigers, rhinoceros, &c. which inhabit the deserts of Asia. There are, besides two species of animal extremely useful, the elephant and the camel.

Q. What are the advantages that Asia can boast of?

A. It was in Asia that the first man was created: it was there that our Saviour redeemed the world. It was also in Asia that the principal religions, and the most ancient monarchies were founded.

Q. Which was the first of those monarchies?

A. The first which history mentions, was that of the Babylonians or Assyrians, which was founded by Nimrod or Belus, 2164 years before Christ; and which was considerably increased under the reign of his son Ninus and Queen Semiramis.

Q. Who was their last king?

A. Sardanaple, against whom Arbaces, one of his officers, revolted, and gave the monarchy of Assyria to the Medes, who remained in possession of it till the reign of Astyages, 896 years before Jesus Christ.

Q. How came it that the monarchy fell to the Persians?

A. Mandane,

*A.* Mandané, daughter of Aftyages, married Cambyfes, king of Perfia. This marriage gave birth to Cyrus, one of the greateft kings mentioned in history. Cyrus was fucceeded by his fon Cambyfes, after whose death an impoftor having taken poffeffion of the kingdom, feven of the principal nobles of Perfia killed him, and gave the monarchy to Darius, fon of Hyftafpes, 522 years before Jefus Chrift. The laft king of Perfia was Darius Codoman, who was overcome by Alexander the Great, king of Macedonia; and thus that monarchy paffed from the Perfians to the Grecians, 330 years before Jefus Chrift.

*Q.* What happened after the death of Alexander?

*A.* The extenfive countries he had conquered, and which were divided among his generals, fell, in great part, into the hands of the Romans, who laid the foundation of the laft and moft powerful of the ancient monarchies.

*Q.* What is the prefent ftate of Afia in that refpect?

*A.* At prefent Afia has no general nor fuperior monarchy; but is divided into feveral ftates, governed by fovereigns independent of each other, fome of whom are very powerful. The chief of thofe fovereigns are, the grand fultan, the empress of Rufsia, the king of Perfia, the great mogul, the emperors of China and Japan.

To

To these may be added, the kan of the Tartars, and the scherif of Mecca.

Q. How are those states governed ?

A. They are all governed monarchically, and even in a despotic manner. There are no republics in Asia, which proceeds from the servile and supine disposition of the inhabitants.

Q. Which are the predominant religions in Asia ?

A. The Mahometan and the Pagan ; there are, nevertheless, a great number of Jews ; the Christian religion of the Greek persuasion predominates in the territories belonging to Russia.

Q. What is further to be remarked ?

A. We observe Mount Taurus, which crosses a part of Asia from west to east. There is also a lake called the Caspian Sea, situated east of the Black Sea. This lake is eight hundred leagues in circumference ; several great rivers discharge themselves into it, without any visible issue ; nevertheless, its waters are never higher at one time than at another, which gives reason to presume, that it has an invisible communication either with the Mediterranean, or rather the ocean.

Q. How is Asia divided ?

A. Into two principal parts ; *Terra Firma* and the surrounding islands, which are separate and independent states.

Q. What does *Terra Firma* contain ?

A. It



*A.* It comprehends Asiatic Turkey and Persia in the west; Arabia and India in the south; China in the east, and great Tartary in the north.

*Q.* Which are the Asiatic islands?

*A.* Those islands lie all in the Indian sea, are distinguished into six classes, the Japan islands, the Ladronne islands, the Philippines, the Moluques, the Sunda islands, and the Maldives; to which is joined the island of Ceylon. All these islands are placed from east to west, in the order we have here named them.

## L E S S O N LXXIX.

### *Of ASIATIC TURKEY.*

*Q.* WHAT is Asiatic Turkey?

*A.* We understand by Asiatic Turkey all the provinces of the Ottoman empire situated in Asia; and in the western part, having the black sea on the north; Persia on the east; Arabia on the south; and the Mediterranean on the west.

*Q.* How is it divided?

*A.* Into six provinces; Natolia, Syria, Diarbeck, Turcomania, Georgia, and the islands dependent

pendant of Turkey. The governors of all those provinces are called Bassas or Beglierbeys.

Q. What is their religion ?

A. The established religion is the Mahometan ; but there are great numbers of Greek Christians and Schismatics.

Q. What are their rivers ?

A. The two largest are the Tigris and the Euphrates, which take their rise in Turcomania, cross the Diarbeck, then unite their waters, and fall into the gulf of Persia, in the south.

Q. Where is Natolia ?

A. It advances in the form of a peninsula from east to west, between the Black Sea and the Archipelago. The air is temperate, and the soil excellent. It was formerly a rich and populous country, but now in several parts almost barren, which proceeds from the nature of the government, and the plague, which often visits them. The inhabitants live in ignorance and slavery.—The Europeans, especially the English, French, and Dutch, trade considerably on the coasts of that province. They export hides, cotton, silk, drugs and carpets. The ports where this trade is carried on, are called the Levant, and there the Europeans keep consuls for the protection of trade.

Q. How is Natolia divided ?

A. Into four provinces ; Natolia proper, in the west ; Amasia, in the north ; Aladulia, in the east ;

east; and Caramania, in the south: each of these provinces has its particular governor. The capital of Natolia proper, is Chiutaye, a large city, the ordinary residence of the Beglierbey.

sides that there is Burse, the ancient capital of the Ottoman empire; and Smyrna, a sea-port, a very trading city, reckoned the first in the Levant. In this province are found the ruins of many cities famous in history, such as Troy, Ephesus, and Nicea. We shall speak of those cities in the article of ancient geography.

Q. Which is the capital of Amasia?

A. The capital bears the name of the province; it is a populous city: there is also Trapezonde, an ancient city on the Black Sea, and the residence of a Greek archbishop. It was formerly the capital of the empire of Trebizonde.

Q. Which is the capital of Aladulia?

A. Marat, the residence of the Bassa.—There is also the city of Malathia, a Greek archbishoprick.

Q. Which is the capital of Caramania?

A. Cogny, a large and ancient city; there is also a sea-port, called Satalia.

Q. Where is Diarbeck situated?

A. Between Persia, on the east; and Natolia, on the west; it is a fruitful soil, but ill cultivated: their principal trade is cotton and morocco. Some authors pretend, that in this province was the garden of Eden, and decide the

place to have been that were the Tigris and Euphrates unite their streams.

*Q.* How is Diarbeck divided ?

*A.* Into three parts ; Diarbeck proper, in the north ; Yerac, in the south ; and Curdistan, towards the east : the capital of Diarbeck proper is Diabestir, a large and trading city, the residence of the Bassa. There is also Mosul, an ancient city on the Tigris, which has its particular governor.

*Q.* What cities are there in Yerac ?

*A.* Bagdad, on the Tigris, a large and fortified city ; and Bassora, on the Euphrates, a sea-port, in the gulf of Persia, and a place of great trade. Bagdad is built on the ruins of the city of Sencucia, seven leagues from ancient Babylon ; the Persians go there in pilgrimage to visit the tomb of Ali, Mahomet's son in law.

*Q.* What is Cardistan ?

*A.* It is an extensive province, inhabited by a set of people called Curdes, who live by rapine, and the produce of their flocks. Some of them obey the grand Signior, others private princes, and a third lead an independent and vagabond life. The only considerable city in this province is Betlis, a strong place, the residence of the principal emir, or prince of the Curdes.



## L E S S O N LXXX.

*Of SYRIA.*

Q. WHERE is Syria situated?

A. It is situated south of Natolia; it extends along the coast of the Mediterranean, to the frontiers of Egypt. It is a fruitful country, and would be of great produce were it not for the supineness of its inhabitants, who only cultivate as much as is necessary for their support.

Q. How is Syria divided?

A. Into three provinces; Syria proper, in the north; Phenicia, in the middle; and Judea, or the Holy Land, in the south. Syria had formerly its particular kings, beginning with Seleucus, one of the generals of Alexander the Great, to whom it devolved, after the demise of that prince, down to Antiochus XIII. who was vanquished by the Romans, under whom it continued as a province for a considerable time.

Q. Who possessed it after them?

A. The emperors of Greece; after them the Saracens; and in 1516, Selim, the first emperor of the Turks, took possession of it, after having defeated the Saracens.

U

Q. Which

Q. Which is the capital of Syria proper?

A. Aleppo is the capital of all the province: it is a large and populous city, the residence of the bafsa; is a place of great trade, where several nations keep consuls. Their principal productions are filk, stuffs, mohair, gall-nuts, and soap.

Q. What other cities are there?

A. The most considerable are Antiocha, on the Orontes, the ancient capital of Syria; and Alexandretta, a sea-port,

Q. Which is the capital of Phenicia?

A. Damascus, situated near mount Libanus, a very ancient city, which trades greatly in filk, steel, wine and fruits. It was formerly the residence of the caliphs, or emperors of the Saracens.

Q. What do you observe of Mount Libanus?

A. That it is famous for the cedars which grow there; it is now inhabited by a great number of schismatic Christians, who call themselves Maronites, and who have their patriarch.

Q. What other cities are there in Phenicia?

A. Syrian Tripoli, a sea-port; Sourd and Said, two cities renowned in history, but which are now almost in ruins.

Q. What is the actual state of Judea?

A. Judea, or the Holy Land, was anciently a fertile country, abounding in every thing, and well

well peopled, but at present deserted and barren. The country is watered from north to south, by the river Jordan, which falls into the Dead Sea,—the name given to a lake of bituminous water situated in the valley where Sodom and Gomorrah formerly stood.

*Q.* Which is the capital of Judea?

*A.* Jerusalem, surnamed the Holy City, formerly of great renown; but which now retains but very little of its ancient splendour. It was formerly the capital of the kingdom of Judah; it was taken by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, 599 years before Christ; and afterwards by Titus, the Roman emperor, in the year 70, after a long and famous siege.

*Q.* Who rebuilt it after that?

*A.* The emperor Adrian, in 139, and named it Elia-Capitolina; but Constantine the Great, having embraced the Christian religion, built several new edifices, and restored it to its former name. It belonged after that to the emperor of Greece, and was taken, with all Judea, by the Saracens, in the seventh century, who remained in possession of it till the time of the crusades.

*Q.* What were the crusades?

*A.* In the eleventh century, the Christians of the west entered into a confederacy; and, from a motive of religion, engaged a war, in order to recover the Holy Land. In the first of those

was Godfrey de Bouillon, chief of the crusaders, made a conquest of the Holy Land, and was crowned king of Jerusalem, in 1099; but his successors soon lost the fruits of his conquests.

Q. What success had the Christians in the second crusade?

A. They were very unfortunate; the princes disagreed, and distempers destroyed their armies; in short, Saladin, sultan of Egypt, and Seraf, his successor, drove them entirely out of the Holy Land in 1291, and made themselves masters of Jerusalem, and St. John of Acre.

Q. What do you remark of Jerusalem?

A. It is famous for the great concourse of pilgrims, (though less in number than formerly) who go there yearly to visit the Holy Land, &c. The principal edifices are the sepulchre, built on the spot where Jesus Christ was interred; and a mosque, built on the site where formerly stood the temple of Solomon. There are also some convents of Greek and Latin monks.

Q. What other cities are there in Judea?

A. The principal cities are Joppa, Gaza, and St. John of Acre, all sea-ports. There are also the boroughs of Bethlehem and Nazareth, renowned in Christian history.

LESSON



L E S S O N LXXXI.

ASIATIC TURKEY *continued.*

TURCOMANIA, GEORGIA, *and the* ISLANDS.

Q. WHERE is Turcomania?

A. It is situated between Persia, on the east, and Georgia, on the west; the country is mountainous, but has good pasture lands, on which they feed great numbers of horses and camels. It takes its name from the word *turc.* The inhabitants are called Armenians, and profess Christianity, of the Greek persuasion. They are a laborious people, great travellers, and given to commerce, in which they excel.

Q. What is remarked of Turcomania?

A. The Armenians have a particular devotion for a place called Mount Ararat, where it is said that Noah's ark stopped after the flood.

Q. How is Turcomania divided?

A. Into two parts; the western, belonging to the Grand Sultan,—and the eastern, of which the king of Persia made a conquest, in 1736, and which the last treaty has confirmed to him.

Q. What cities are there in Turcomania?

A. In the western part there is Erzerum, the capital, situated near the source of the Euphrates; it is a large and populous city: there is also

Cars, a fortified place, towards the east. In Eastern Turcomania, there is Erivan, the capital, which is tolerably well fortified.

Q. Where is Georgia situated?

A. It is situated between the Black Sea, on the west,—and the Caspian Sea, on the east. The country produces all that is necessary to life, but has little trade; it also produces silk and furs; the inhabitants profess the Greek religion, but are ignorant, and live in disorder. The women pass for the finest in the world, and are sold for slaves.

Q. To whom does Georgia belong?

A. It is subject to several private princes, either under the protection of the Grand Sultan or the king of Persia, and are tributary to them; for which reason it is divided into two parts, as said before. The western part comprehends three provinces; Mingrilia, Gurriel, and Immirrette: the only considerable city is Savatopoli, the capital of Mingrilia, on the Black Sea; the other two provinces bear the names of their capitals.

Q. Which is the capital of the eastern division?

A. The capital of Eastern Georgia is Teflis, in the province of Carduel, a large and fortified city, the most considerable of all Georgia; it is a place of great trade, especially in silk.

Q. What are the Turkish islands in Asia?

A. They

*A.* They are situated in the Mediterranean, along the coasts of Natolia: the two largest are Cyprus and Rhodes; the island of Cyprus is one of the largest in the Mediterranean, and situated between Natolia, on the north, and Syria, on the south;—the air is unwholesome, but the soil is good, and produces excellent wines and fruits. We import from thence cotton, silk, copper and vitriol. Some of the inhabitants are Mahometans, and others Greek Christians: the latter live in ignorance and idleness.

*Q.* To whom did the island of Cyprus belong?

*A.* After having been in the hands of the emperors of Greece, it passed to the family of Lusignan, with the title of kingdom, in 1191. The heiress of that house married Lewis, duke of Savoy, in 1458: the Venetians took it some time after,—and, in 1571, it was taken from them by the emperor Selim II.

*Q.* Which is the capital of the island?

*A.* Nicosia, a large, populous, and well-fortified city, the residence of the bassa, or governor-general of the whole island, and the seat of a Greek archbishop. The other large cities are, Famagusta, a sea-port, and fortified city, before which the Turks lost 80,000 men in a siege; and Limisso, where the knights of Malta retired after the loss of the holy-land.

*Q.* Where is Rhodes situated?

U 4

*A.* It

*A.* It lies west of the island of Cyprus, and near the coast of Caramania. It is in a pure and wholesome air; the soil abounds in fruits and pasture. The inhabitants manufacture carpets and camlets. This island, though small, was famous during more than two centuries, on account of its belonging to the knights of Malta.

*Q.* How were those knights first called?

*A.* They were called the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem; the order had been instituted at the time of the crusades, to give succour to the pilgrims who were to visit the holy-land. It was at first a religious, but soon became a military order; a great many gentlemen entered into it, and the knights distinguished themselves in the defence of that sacred place.

*Q.* What happened to them after?

*A.* After the ill-success of the crusades, they, and all the Christians, were forced to abandon Jerusalem and St. John of Acre, in 1290. They at first took shelter at Limisso, and afterwards in Rhodes, of which they took possession in 1310. Soliman II. exasperated against the knights for the frequent excursions they made against his subjects, attacked them with an army of 200,000 men, and made himself master of the capital, after a long and obstinate siege. That prince, admiring their bravery, gave them an honourable capitulation, and furnished them with ships to



retire to Italy, where they took possession of the island of Malta, as said before.

*Q.* Which is the capital?

*A.* The capital of all the island is Rhodes, a sea-port, and strong place, where the Greeks have an archbishop.

*Q.* What other small islands are there along the coast?

*A.* Among those on the coasts of Natolia, we remark Samos and Patmos, Mytelene and Scio, remarkable for its excellent wine.

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## L E S S O N LXXXII.

### ARABIA.

*Q.* WHERE is Arabia situated?

*A.* It is situated near Africa, to which it communicates by the isthmus of Suez. It is bounded by Syria and Diarbeck, on the north; by the gulf of Persia, on the east; by the Indian Sea, on the south; and by the Red Sea, on the west.—The first who inhabited it were the Ishmaelites, descendants of Ishmael, son of Abraham. They are chiefly known in history by the name of Arabs or Saracens. The false prophet, Mahomet established

established his religion there, and at the same time laid the foundation of the empire of the Arabs, in 622; and his successor, who took the name of Caliph, made great conquests in Asia and Africa. The caliphs of the dynasty of the Om-miades fixed the seat of their empire at Damascus; and the Abbassides, who succeeded them, transported it to Bagdad.

Q. How was that empire destroyed?

A. It was first greatly weakened by the sultans of Egypt, and after them the Turks abolished it entirely, by the conquest they made of all the country held in possession by the caliphs.

Q. To whom does Arabia belong at present?

A. The greatest part is under the dominion of the Grand Sultan, or of some private princes, his vassals. The remainder is subject to the scherif of Mecca or Medina. Some of the people live in cities, and apply themselves to trade and sciences; others, called Bedouins, lead a vagabond life, committing continual depredations, and acknowledge no other sovereign than their chief.

Q. How is Arabia divided?

A. It is generally divided into three parts,—Arabia Petrea, in the north; Arabia Deserta, in the east; and Arabia Felix, in the south. Arabia Petrea takes its name from its ancient capital; the country is almost a desert, and uncultivated; its few inhabitants are a tribe of Bedouins. Its  
principal

principal cities are Erac, formerly Petrea, the capital, towards the north ; and El-Tor, a seaport on the Red Sea, opposite to which it is thought the Israelites crossed that sea in their flight from Egypt.

Q. What is Arabia Deserta ?

A. It is thus called on account of the deserts covered with burning sands, which are met with there ; it is inhabited by the Bedouins, who deal in a breed of horses much esteemed.

Q. How do people travel in that country ?

A. They assemble in large bodies, called caravans, that they may be able to defend themselves against the Arabs ; and they carry with them all their provisions. The only remarkable city is Ana, on the Euphrates, towards the west, the capital of all the country ; it was formerly a strong trading city, but has been almost entirely ruined by the Turks.

Q. What is Arabia Felix ?

A. It bears that name, because it is much more fruitful and populous than the two others : it advances in the form of a peninsula, between the Red Sea and the gulf of Persia. Its principal productions are gums, aromatics,—such as myrrh, incense and aloes,—besides several medicinal drugs, and the best coffee. On the coasts they meet with pearls and coral ; and in general they have a brisk trade.

Q. How is Arabia Felix divided ?

I

A. Into

*A.* Into northern and southern divisions ; the former is subject to the scherif of Mecca and Medina ; and the latter is divided between the grand Sultan and several private princes.

*Q.* What do you mean by the scherif of Mecca ?

*A.* He is a prince greatly respected by all the Mahometans, because he is a descendant of Mahomet ; he receives great presents, and is the protector of the pilgrims against the Bedouin Arabs.

*Q.* What cities are there in Arabia Felix ?

*A.* The principal cities are Mecca and Medina. Mecca is large and well-built, the ordinary residence of the scherif, and the place where Mahomet was born. All his sectaries are obliged, once in their lives, to visit the principal mosque of this city. Medina, towards the north, is the place where Mahomet is interred in a superb mosque ; his coffin is supported by delicate columns of white marble, surrounded by a balustrade of silver, where the Mahometans go, out of devotion.

*Q.* What cities are there in the southern division ?

*A.* They have Mocha, in the kingdom of Yemen ; it is a sea-port, to which most Europeans resort to purchase coffee. There is also Aden, a sea-port ; Mascate, towards the east, capital of the kingdom of that name, which is governed by its own sovereign ; and Elcatif, a sea-port.

LESSON



## L E S S O N LXXIII.

## P E R S I A.

Q. WHAT is the situation of Persia ?

A. The kingdom of Persia is bordered on the north, by Great Tartary and the Caspian sea ; by the territories of the grand mogul, on the east ; by the gulf of Persia, on the south ; and by Asiatic Turkey, on the west. The air is either hot, or temperate, according as the provinces are more or less in the south. The soil, in general, is fruitful, and cultivated ; it produces rice and other grain in abundance, besides wines, which are held in great estimation.

Q. What do they export ?

A. Great quantities of wrought and raw silks ; pearls, which they find on the coasts ; carpets, and raw and printed cottons : formerly the Europeans imported all their silk from Persia, the art of making it there having been brought from China : in the seventh century, the emperor Justinian had silk-worms eggs brought to Constantinople ; and they were, by that method, introduced into Europe.

Q. What is the kingdom of Persia ?

A. What

*A.* What is now called by that name, is only a part of the ancient monarchy of Persia, destroyed by Alexander the Great, and which afterwards made part of the Roman empire, as observed before.

*Q.* Who first possessed that kingdom?

*A.* It first belonged to the successors of Alexander the Great, and after them to the Parthians, a warlike people; Arsaces, and his successors were often at war with the Romans; the Parthians were driven out of it by Artaxerxes, a native of Persia; who, in 226, founded the second monarchy of Persia, which subsisted four hundred years: it was after that alternately taken and retaken by the Saracens and Tartars; but the latter were entirely deprived of it by Ismael, a descendant of the sophies, in 1514.

*Q.* What do you observe of Ismael's descendants.

*A.* They reigned in Persia till the commencement of the present century. The most renowned were, Schah Abbas, surnamed the Great, and Schah Thamas, the last of that race, and under whose reign there was a revolution.

*Q.* What was that revolution?

*A.* Thamas Kouli Khan, an usurper, put the last of that family to death in 1736, invaded the kingdom of Persia, conquered several provinces from the Turks and the great mogul, reigned with great glory, and was assassinated by one of his relations

relations in 1748. After his death several princes contended for the crown of Persia, without gaining any advantage over each other; so that the kingdom is now distracted by civil wars, and has no decided sovereign.

Q. What do you remark of Persia?

A. That the government is monarchical and despotic; the inhabitants profess Mahometanism, of the sect of Ali, Mahomet's son-in-law, which differs from the Turks, who follow that of Omar.

Q. How is it divided?

A. It may be divided into two principal parts; one north, and the other south of Mount Taurus; they together compose thirteen great provinces.—The capital of all Persia is Ispahan, in the province of Irac-Agemi, the usual residence of the sovereign. It is a very large city, but thinly peopled: the king's palace, and the great place or square called the Meidan, are almost the only things remarkable.

Q. What other cities are there in the north?

A. Tauris, in the province of Aderbijan, a large, rich, and trading city; Ferabad, where there is a royal palace; and Derbent, a strong city and sea-port on the Caspian sea.

Q. What cities are there in the south?

A. There is Schiras, situated in a province which produces excellent wine; and Candahar, a strong place towards the east.

Q. What

Q. What is met with on the coasts of the gulf of Persia?

A. We find Gamron, or Bender Abassi, a seaport, frequented by the Europeans, where they carry on a great trade. There are also the islands of Ormus and Bahrem; the Portuguese had made themselves masters of Ormus, and had fortified it; but Schah Abbas took it from them in the last century. The finest pearls are found near the island of Bahrem.

Q. What people are met with towards the east?

A. In the province of Candahar in the east, there is a set of people called Afgans, distinguished for their bravery; it was by means of their revolt that Thamas Kouli Khan succeeded in usurping the throne.

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## LESSON LXXXIV.

### GREAT TARTARY.

Q. WHERE is Great Tartary?

A. It is a large tract of land, thus called to distinguish it from Little Tartary, of which we have already



already spoken. It is situated in the north of Asia, and comprehends near one half of it, yet it has been entirely unknown till of late years. It is bounded on the north, by the Frozen Ocean; by the Eastern Ocean, on the east; by China, India, and Persia, on the south; and by European Russia, on the west. The northern parts are cold, mostly uncultivated, and but little inhabited, being covered with immense forests; but the southern parts are milder, and more productive.

Q. In what do they trade?

A. The principal things we receive from them are furs, ermines, fables, white bear-skins, and black foxes. The best rhubarb in the world grows in the south of Turkey.

Q. What do you observe of the Tartars?

A. Those who dwell near Turkey and Persia in the south, are cruel, lazy, and robbers; they profess the Mahometan religion: those who live towards the north, subsist on the produce of their herds; they clothe themselves with skins of animals, live under tents, or in covered carriages, and are, for the most part, pagans. All these people were known in ancient history by the name of Scythians; they were renowned for their valour, justice, and frugality. The name of Tartars comes either from a river of that country, or from one of their clans, who, in the thirteenth century, were very powerful, and made great conquests in the south of Asia.

Q. What rivers have they ?

A. The four principal rivers are, the Oby, the Jenisea, the Lena, and the Amur: the three first run from south to north, and fall into the Frozen Ocean; the fourth runs from west to east.

Q. How is that country divided ?

A. All that vast country is only divided into three parts; Chinese Tartary, Independent Tartary, and Russian Tartary; the two first in the south, and the third takes up all the north, and is as extensive as the other two.

Q. Which is Chinese Tartary ?

A. It is the eastern part of Great Tartary, and is subject to the emperor of China, who sends governors there. It is inhabited by different sets of people; the most powerful are the Manchoux, who, in the last century, conquered China: Chieniang is the only remarkable city; it is situated in the province of Manchoux, where we find the tomb of Xunchi, who conquered China.

Q. What is Independent Tartary ?

A. It is so called, because it is not subject, like the others, to any foreign prince, but obeys its private masters, the most powerful of whom is called the Great Cham. It is divided into two parts by the Caspian sea: the eastern comprehends Thibet, the Calmucks, the Usbecks, and the Turquestan; in the western, we find Circassia and Daghestan.

Q. What

Q. What is remarked of Thibet ?

A. It is there that the Grand Lama, or high priest of the pagan Tartars resides, for whom they have great veneration. There is a great river, called Gillion, which falls into the Caspian sea. The most considerable city of Independent Tartary is Samarcand, capital of Usbeck Tartary ; it is large, has a good trade, and is situated in a fruitful soil. In this place the famous Tamerlane was born.

Q. What is Russian Tartary ?

A. It contains three grand governments, which are, Siberia, in the north ; and Casan and Astracan, in the south : The emperors of Russia conquered part of that country in the last century ; but the principal establishments were made under the reign of Peter the Great, and his successors. The intent of the Russians was to know the utmost extent of Asia, towards the east ; and to find a road by which they might trade with China, both by sea and land, which point they have attained.

Q. What does Siberia contain ?

A. That government comprehends Siberia proper, in the west ; and Eastern Siberia, which extends as far as the coasts of the ocean. The capital of Siberia proper is Tobolsky, on the river of that name ; it is a large city and an archbishoprick ; it trades with China and India by caravans, which the Russians send there. There is also the city of Jumen, which is fortified. It is to Siberia that the

emperors of Russia send their state-prisoners in exile, and those reprieved from execution.

Q. What are the eastern people of Siberia?

A. Those of the east, but particularly towards the north, live like savages; they are no otherwise subject to Russia than that they pay them an annual tribute in furs. The chief cities there are, Nerfinskoi, or Niptchou, where a treaty of peace was signed between the czar and the emperor of China, in 1689. They have also Kamschatka, a sea-port, in the peninsula of that name. Of late years the Russians have established a colony at Kamschatka, where they build ships, with which they sail in the Eastern ocean.

Q. Which is the capital of the province of Casan?

A. Casan, in the south; it is a large and populous city, and an archbishoprick. The Russians trade there considerably in furs, and timber for building ships.

Q. Where is the province of Astracan?

A. Astracan, which was formerly called a kingdom, is situated near the Caspian sea, and extends along the Wolga; its capital is Astracan, at the mouth of that river; it is an archbishoprick, and a large, trading city. The country abounds in wine and fruits: the inhabitants make a vast quantity of salt; they fish for sturgeon in the Wolga, and it is with the spawn of that fish that they make a much-esteemed dish called caviar.



## L E S S O N LXXXV.

*Of* I N D I A.

Q. WHAT is understood by the word India?

A. Under that denomination is comprehended all those countries situated in the south of Asia, between Great Tartary, in the north; China, on the east; the ocean, on the south; and Persia, on the west. It is a very hot country; but the heat is tempered by the periodical rains, which fertilize the soil. It produces rice, cotton, and fruits of all sorts; there is one peculiar to that country, called the cocoa-nut, produced by the Indian palm-tree; it is very common, and the natives convert it to many uses: the leaves of this tree serve to cover their houses; the tree itself emits a liquor, which, differently prepared, gives milk, wine, and sugar; they extract oil from the kernel of the fruit; and its shell serves to make different vases for the use of their families.

Q. Is it a rich country?

A. India abounds with rich productions. It has mines of gold, silver, and precious stones; they export diamonds, pearls, silk, cotton, linens, and spices, for all which they have a considerable

trade. It is generally called the East Indies, to distinguish it from America, which is called the West.

Q. How was the trade formerly carried on?

A. It was customary for the Arabs to convey the merchandise from India, by the Red Sea, as far as Egypt, where the Europeans, especially the Venetians, came to purchase of them. But the Portuguese having discovered a passage to India by the Cape of Good Hope, in 1497, found their way there, and brought the merchandise home directly from the spot: but they did not long enjoy that advantage; for the Dutch, some years after, being informed of that discovery, while Portugal was yet subject to Spain, sent ships there, and invaded the greatest part of their establishments. After them the English, French, and other European nations, seeing the advantage of that trade, found means to form settlements there.

Q. What observation do you make on that?

A. We distinguish two sorts of establishments in India. There are places of trade, of which the Europeans are masters, either by conquests or treaties with the sovereigns of the countries; and others, where they only keep factories.

Q. How is India inhabited?

A. The different countries of India are inhabited by three sorts of people; the Europeans, the Indians, or natives, and the Moguls, or Tartars. The Europeans are either Catholics or Protestants,  
and

and have made many converts in India; the natives are idolaters, and believe the transmigration of souls; the Moguls are Mahometans.

Q. What rivers are there in India?

A. They have two very capital rivers; the Indus, which gives name to the whole country, and the Ganges. They both run from north to south, and fall by different branches into the ocean.

Q. How is India divided?

A. It is generally divided into three principal countries; the empire of the Grand Mogul towards the north; the Western Peninsula on this side of the Ganges; and the Eastern beyond that river.

## LESSON LXXXVI.

### INDIA *continued.*

Q. WHAT is the empire of the Mogul?

A. It is a vast and powerful state, situated between Persia on the west, and China on the east. The country is rich; fruitful, and very populous. They live chiefly on rice.

Q. What is remarked on the history of that country?

A. Several conquerors of antiquity, and particularly Alexander the Great, penetrated into India; but after the death of the latter, it was restored to its natural sovereigns. After that, a Tartar, or Mogul prince, named Gengiskhan, subdued part of it, in the thirteenth century; and two hundred years after Timurlenk, or Tamerlane, a native, conquered the remainder; and his descendants laid the foundation of the Mogul empire.

Q. Who is the present sovereign?

A. One of the family of Tamerlane; he professes the religion of Mahomet, of the sect of Omar; he exercises despotism over his subjects, has an immense revenue, and is reputed the richest sovereign in the world: but Thamas Kouli Khan, king of Persia, plundered great part of his riches. He first declared war against the emperor in 1739, and after many successful battles, obliged him to give up the greatest part of his treasures, with three provinces of his empire: among other things, he took from him that famous throne of Tamerlane, which was of solid gold, enriched with the finest oriental stones.

Q. How are the inhabitants distinguished?

A. They may be ranged under three classes; the Bramins, who are either priests or lawyers; the



the Rasbutes, who are soldiers ; and the Banians, who are traders. The emperor is not only sovereign of the Mogul empire, but most of the kings of the two peninsulas are tributary to him. The empire alone is composed of nineteen great provinces ; most of them bear the names of their capitals ; but we shall only speak of the largest and most known cities.

Q. Which is the capital of the Mogul ?

A. Agra, situated in the center of the empire, a very large and rich city, the ordinary residence of the sovereign. Towards the north we find Delhi the former capital, where the emperor has a magnificent palace, in which his treasures were deposited, when Thamas Kouli Khan took that great city almost without resistance. Towards the east is Dacca, on the eastern branch of the Ganges, and near the gulf of Bengal ; it is a trading city : Hughley stands on the same river ; there the Dutch have a considerable factory. There are also two other large cities, Chandernagore and Jagnerat : the latter is the residence of the principal Bramin. In the west there is Tatta, a city which stands on the mouth of the Indus ; where the Portuguese carry on a great trade ; Cambaia, near the gulf of that name ; and also Amadabat and Surat ; the latter is a large, populous, and well fortified city. There we meet with the most precious

precious merchandise of India ; and all the European nations who trade in that part of the world, have factories there.

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L E S S O N LXXXVII.

INDIA *continued.*

Q. WHAT does the western Peninsula of India contain ?

A. The kingdoms of Vifapour, Golconda and Bisnagar, or the Carnatic, with the coasts of Malabar and Coromandel. Besides those, there are several states less extensive, subject to princes who have the title of nabob, or subah. These three kingdoms are inland countries, towards the north ; the two coasts are situated east and west of the Peninsula, and are terminated by Cape Comorin, towards the south.

Q. What is the produce of those countries ?

A. In the kingdom of Golconda they have the two richest diamond mines yet discovered ; the finest pearls are found at Cape Comorin ;—and over all the Peninsula they manufacture  
printed

printed linens and cottons, held in great esteem. Each of the three kingdoms has its capital, which bears the name of the whole kingdom;—those three cities are large, populous and well built. Their sovereigns are tributary to the Great Mogul.

*Q.* What do the Europeans possess?

*A.* The Portuguese have Davan and Diu, two strong places: the latter is situated in an island; they have also the city of Goa. The English have Bombay, a sea-port and trading city. Goa is an archbishoprick and a sea-port, the most considerable of the Portuguese settlements in India. It has a viceroy, and the inquisition is established there. It is in this place that the body of St. Francis Xavier is preserved; he was the first who preached Christianity in India.

*Q.* What other remarkable cities are there?

*A.* There is Mazulipatan, in the kingdom of Golconda; a city famous for its trade in printed linens, reputed the best of all India, and where all the trading countries of Europe have factories.

*Q.* What is found on the coast of Malabar?

*A.* The Dutch have built forts on that coast, principally at Cochin and Cananore: they trade in spices and other productions of that country. The kingdom of Calicut is also on that coast.

*Q.* What cities are there on the coast of Coromandel?

*A.* There

*A.* There is Madras, or Fort St. George, which belongs to the English ; Paliacate and Negapatan, belonging to the Dutch ; Pondicherry to the French ; and Tranquebar to the Danes : all those cities are fortified. There is also Madura, capital of the province of that name. At Tranquebar the Danes have introduced Lutheran missionaries ; and it is the first establishment of that nature which the Protestants have formed in India.

*Q.* What does the Eastern Peninsula contain ?

*A.* It is situated beyond the Ganges, and is much more extensive than the other : it contains several kingdoms ; three in the north, two in the east, and three in the south. The three in the north are Arracan, Ava, and Pegu ; their capitals have the same names. The two in the east are Tonquin and Cochin-China. Those in the south are Siam, Cambodia, and Malacca.

*Q.* What do the Europeans import from that Peninsula ?

*A.* Diamonds, and particularly rubies, which are found in the kingdom of Ava. They purchase also the bezoar-stone, ivory and the perfume of the civet cat. All the natives are idolaters ; but the Catholic missionaries who have settled in that country, especially at Cochin-China, have made a great number of proselytes.

*Q.* What is remarked of the king of Siam ?

*A.* He



*A.* He sent, in 1684, ambassadors to Lewis XIV. of France, to propose a treaty of commerce between the two nations, and that monarch, in return, sent some to Siam. That compact did not last long; for Constance, prime minister to the king of Siam, having been killed in a riot, the French were obliged to abandon the country. Odia, or Juthia, a large and populous city, and the residence of the sovereign, is the capital of the kingdom.

*Q.* Where is the kingdom of Malacca situated?

*A.* It stands on a peninsula, towards the south. The capital is Malacca, a fortified place, and seaport, belonging to the Dutch.

## LESSON LXXXVIII.

### *Of CHINA.*

*Q.* WHERE is China situated?

*A.* It lays in the most eastern part of Asia, drawing towards the south. This vast empire is bounded by Chinese Tartary; by the Ocean, east and south; and by India and a part of Tartary,

tary, on the west. China is separated from Great Tartary by a wall four hundred leagues long, which was built two thousand years ago, to protect them from the incursions of the Tartars; but it is now become useless, and falls to ruin.

*Q.* What is the nature of the country?

*A.* The climate is wholesome and temperate towards the north; it is very populous; the soil is fruitful, and the best cultivated of all Asia: it is rich in gold and silver mines, besides other metals. The best tea comes from thence; they make the finest varnish; and their China-ware is much esteemed. They have also the Chinese aloes, the fruit and wood of which are aromatic; they have a root which they call ginseng, which is looked upon by them as an universal remedy; they have also the tallow tree, with the fruit of which they make candles.

*Q.* What is the history of that country?

*A.* If we give credit to their own history, it is one of the most ancient monarchies in the world; for they pretend to have had, without interruption, two hundred and thirty-seven emperors; the famous Gengiskhan, a Tartar prince, undertook the conquest of China in 1275; he subdued part of it, but his successors were forced to abandon it. About four hundred years after that, the Manchoux Tartars, commanded by Xunchi, their sovereign, penetrated into China, in 1644; —made themselves masters of the whole empire  
with

with the most astonishing facility, and have preserved it ever since.

Q. How is China governed?

A. By a sovereign, who bears the title of emperor, and whose power is absolute. Its police, or civil government, is conducted in the most admirable manner. The emperor's principal officers are called mandarins; they have divers functions, and are separated into different classes, through which they must pass. There are gown mandarins, who are literary men, such as counsellors, presidents, &c.; and sword mandarins, who are generals and governors of provinces.

Q. What is observed of the Chinese?

A. That they are sensible and witty, and great lovers of arts and sciences. Printing, artillery, and the mariner's compass were in use with them before they were known in Europe. They write in columns from top to bottom of the page. They have no alphabet, but make use of certain characters which express a whole word; for which reason it is very difficult to learn to read and write in their language.

Q. What is their religion?

A. They have two religions in China,—that of the philosophers, or learned men, which is that of the king and the court; and the pagan religion, which is that of the people. That of the philosophers, or literati, consists in the belief of an only God; they honour and revere  
their

their deceased kings and doctors, but principally Confucius, a famous philosopher and legislator of China, who lived five hundred years before Jesus Christ. The paganism of the people is superstitious and absurd: their priests are called Bonzes, and pretend to be magicians. We also find in China both Jews and Mahometans.

Q. Are there no Christian missionaries in China?

A. Under the pretence of teaching mathematics, some missionaries, especially Jesuits, had introduced themselves into China, and made a great number of converts; the emperor who supported them being dead, his successor expelled them; nevertheless, some few have entered since; but their liberty is much more restrained than formerly. They had been accused of uniting the Christian worship to that of Confucius, and tolerating too much the superstitious ceremonies of the people.

Q. What rivers are there in China?

A. The two principal rivers are the Hoang, or Yellow River, towards the north; and the Kiang, or Blue River, south of the first: they both run from west to east, and fall into the sea of China. They have several canals, with sluices for interior commerce, the chief of which is the royal canal, which is six hundred leagues long.

Q. How is the empire of China divided?

A. It



*A.* It is separated into two principal parts, north and south, by the river Kiang; it contains in the whole fifteen great provinces, governed by mandarins. The capital of all the empire is Peking, towards the north, in the province of that name. It is a very large city, extremely populous, and the ordinary residence of the sovereign; it is separated into two parts, one called the ancient city, inhabited by the Tartars, and the other, which has been built since the invasion: in that we see the emperor's palace, which is a very large pile of building,—and several pagods, or magnificent temples; in one of which there is a bell which weighs an hundred and twenty thousand pounds.

*Q.* What other cities are there in China?

*A.* Though there are a great number of other cities in that empire, we shall only make remarks on four, which are Singan, Nanking, Canton, and Macao. Singan, on the river Hoei, is a large and fine city; the former emperors of China resided there: it lies in the province of Chenzi, towards the west. Nanking is situated near the mouth of the river Kiang; it is thought to be the largest city in the world: it is said to be twelve leagues in circumference; there is a tower all of China-ware, which is much admired; it is nine stories high. Canton, in the province of that name, is a very large city, with a good port. It is there where the Europeans carry on the

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greatest

greatest trade with China. Macao, in the little island of that name, lies west of Canton; it is a place of great trade, and well fortified. It belongs to the Portuguese; but they acknowledge the sovereignty of the emperor.

Q. What islands are there on the coast of China?

A. There are several islands on the southern coast which belong to China. The two largest are Formosa and Hainan. Formosa is a large and fruitful island: it was formerly in the possession of the Dutch, who were forced by the Chinese to abandon it about the middle of the last century: they attempted, but in vain, with the aid of some of the natives, to enter in again in 1721. On the east of China we meet with the kingdom of Corea, in a peninsula of the same name, the sovereignty of which is tributary to the emperor.

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## LESSON LXXXIX.

### *Of the ASIATIC ISLANDS.*

Q. WHERE are the Japan islands situated?

A. They all lay east of China, and are separated from it by a canal, called the Japan Sea; they are in great numbers; the three largest are Nippon, Ximo or Bonza, and Xicoco. The air  
of

of those islands is very wholesome and temperate. The industry of the natives renders the soil fruitful in rice and other grain; they are very populous. The Europeans who trade there export their tea, China-wares, and japanned furniture,—besides gold, and a sort of pewter held in great estimation.

*Q.* Who discovered those islands?

*A.* The Portuguese, who were thrown upon them by a storm, in 1542, having learned that there were gold mines in the country, returned thither in hopes of forming settlements. The natives have genius, and are lovers of science,—they make it a point of honour to be sober and courageous; they have many habits in opposition to ours. All those islands are subject to an emperor, called Cubo, who is powerful, absolute, and extremely rich.

*Q.* What religion do they profess?

*A.* They are Pagans; their chief is called Dairo,—he is greatly respected by the people, and had formerly the sovereign authority. There are a great number of monks in those islands. St. Francis Xavier, in 1549, preached the Christian faith among them, and made a great number of converts, so that fourscore years after, no less than eighty thousand Christians were reckoned there. But the emperor having taken offence at the great number of proselytes, excited a persecution against them, and entirely abolished christ-

tianity in his states : he did more,—he forbade, on pain of death, the entrance into his dominions to all Europeans, except the Dutch, who alone trade there ; but as soon as they arrive, their ships are sequestered. This constraint, added to the danger of the voyage, is the reason why they send yearly but few ships.

*Q.* Which is the capital of Japan ?

*A.* The capital of Nippon, and at the same time of the whole empire, is Jeddo, a large and well peopled city, the usual residence of the sovereign. The other remarkable cities are, Meaco, towards the north, where the dairo resides,—and Osaca, a sea-port, in the west.

*Q.* What is met with in the island of Xicoco ?

*A.* We find Nangasacki, a sea-port, and the only one where the Dutch are permitted to land. The Chinese trade considerably there.

*Q.* What are the Ladrone islands ?

*A.* They are small islands which lay south of those of Japan ; they are in great numbers in that part of the ocean called the Archipelago of St. Laurence : they were discovered, in 1520, by Ferdinand Magellan, a famous navigator ; he gave them that name, because he found himself pilfered by the natives. They are in a hot climate, and thinly inhabited, and produce only rice and fruits ; the islanders are industrious, and build little boats, called proas, of a curious invention. Several of those islands are subject to Spain,



Spain, who call them the Mariannas, from Marianna of Austria, consort of Philip IV. under whose reign those settlements were formed. The largest of those islands is Guan, where the Spaniards have a fort called St. Ignacea, where they keep a garrison, and where the Manilla galleon refreshes on its return from Mexico.

Q. Where are the Philippine islands situated?

A. They lay west of the Ladrones, and south of the coasts of China. They are so numerous, that they reckon twelve hundred of them. Their produce, in general, is excellent fruits: they have some gold and silver mines. The Spaniards export from thence ambergris, tortoise-shell, and some few spices. They were discovered by Ferdinand Magellan, in 1520, who took possession of them in the name of the Spaniards; and, in 1564, he was killed in a combat against the natives. Their name comes from Philip II. who founded a colony there. The Spaniards have still settlements in some of them, and the others are in the hands of their native princes. The largest of them are, Manilla or Luçon, and Tandaye, both in the power of Spain; there is also Mindanao, which has its king.

Q. Which is the capital of Manilla?

A. Manilla is the capital of the island, where the Spaniards keep a viceroy; it is a populous and trading city, with a spacious and sure port; it is the staple or store-house of all the merchan-

dize of Asia and America; the inhabitants traffic with the Chinese; they also receive the most precious productions of Mexico and Peru, by a galleon richly loaded, which crosses the South Sea every year. In 1746 that galleon was taken by Admiral Anson, who sailed round the world in quest of it.

Q. What is the island of Tandaye?

A. It lies south of Manilla; it was first discovered by Magellan, and passes for the most pleasant of all the Philippines.

## L E S S O N XC.

### ASIATIC ISLANDS *continued.*

Q. WHAT are the Molucca islands?

A. That denomination is given to all the islands situated south of the Philippines, and are divided into great and small. Some of them abound in rice,—but chiefly produce those spices which grow no where else,—such as cloves and nutmegs; they have also aloes and sandal-wood; the natives are black, and idolaters; their principal food is the pith of a tree called sago, of which they make bread.

Q. Who discovered those islands?

A. Ferdinand

*A.* Ferdinand Magellan, in 1520; he took possession of them for the king of Spain, who afterwards relinquished his rights on them to Portugal; but the Dutch soon expelled the Portuguese, and have been in possession of them ever since 1604. On several of them they have erected forts,—and have, in some measure, subjected the kings of the others by treaties; so that they have entirely monopolized the spice trade of that country.

*Q.* Which are those called the Great Moluccas?

*A.* They reckon four, the two largest of which are Celebes and Gilolo. In the island of Celebes, we find the kingdom of Macassar, with its capital of the same name, where the Dutch have a fort; the king is a Mahometan, and his subjects are reputed the most courageous of all India.

*Q.* Which are the small ones?

*A.* There are several,—but the principal are Banda and Amboyna; the first produces mace and nutmegs, and the other cloves. They both belong to the Dutch, who have forts and good garrisons there.

*Q.* What are the Sunda islands?

*A.* They are islands thus called from the straits of Sunda. They lay west of the Moluccas, and south of the Eastern Peninsula of India; they are three in number, and very large; Borneo, in the east; Sumatra, in the west; and

Java in the south. It is a hot but wholesome country. The natives are blacks, idolaters, or Mahometans. There is a people called Malays, whose tongue is spoken all over India. Borneo is the largest of the Indian islands : it belongs to several sovereigns, the most powerful of whom is the king of Borneo. It produces diamonds, pepper and camphire. The Europeans have no settlements there.

*Q.* Where is the island of Sumatra ?

*A.* It is separated from Java by the straits of Sunda; it produces pepper and medicinal drugs, and has some gold and silver mines. It is divided between several sovereigns allied to the Dutch, who have some forts on the shore. The most powerful of those kingdoms is Achem, situated in the north of the island, and frequented by Europeans.

*Q.* What is the island of Java ?

*A.* That island, though the smallest of the three, is nevertheless the most considerable, as the Dutch have their principal settlement there, and that it is the staple for European and Asiatic merchandize. This island is subject partly to the Dutch, and partly to two sovereigns of the country, with whom they are allied ; these are the emperor of Mataran and the king of Bantam. The island is very populous ; the capital of the Dutch settlements is Batavia, a well-built and rich city, defended by a strong citadel. Batavia  
is



is the seat of the sovereign council for the trade of that nation, and the residence of a governor named by the Directors of the East India Company, with the title of general. The company is rich and powerful, it sends every year a great number of ships to Batavia, loaded with European goods, which bring back the most valuable commodities of Asia.

Q. What are the Maldives ?

A. They call by the name of Maldives, a considerable number of small islands placed almost in a line from north to south, opposite the point of the peninsula of Hither India.— They are supposed to be twelve thousand in number, divided into thirteen parts. The largest called Male, is only a league in circumference. These islands produce excellent fruits, ambergris and tortoise-shells. They are all subject to a Mahometan king. They were discovered by the Portuguese in 1507, and neither they nor the other nations of Europe, have made any settlements on them.

Q. Where is the island of Ceylon situated ?

A. It is a very extensive island, situated south of the Western Peninsula of India, and is only separated from it by the strait of Manar. The air is pure and wholesome ; the soil produces rice, and divers sorts of fruits ; they have mines of gems, and pearls are found on the coasts.— But its most valuable commodity is cinnamon,  
of

of the best quality ; there are whole forests of the tree which produces that spice. There are elephants in that island reputed the finest in Asia. The interior part of the island is subject to a prince called the king of Candy ; who resides in the capital of that name ; he is tributary to the Dutch, who are masters of the coasts.

*Q.* Who were the first Europeans who settled there ?

*A.* The Portuguese, in 1506 ; they possessed many places on the coasts ; but the Dutch drove them out in 1652, and have now the sole trade. The principal cities belonging to the Dutch are Colombo, towards the south ; and the residence of their governor, Trincomale, towards the north ; Pontogallo and Jafnapatan ; all which are well fortified and have good ports.

*Q.* What island is there near Ceylon ?

*A.* We find the small island of Manar, famous for the great quantities of pearls met with on the coasts ; it also belongs to the Dutch.

## T H I R D P A R T.

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### L E S S O N XCI.

#### *General Idea of AFRICA.*

Q. **W**HAT is the situation of Africa?

A. It is the most southern of the three parts of the ancient continent; it forms an extensive peninsula, which terminates in a promontory in the south. It is bounded on the north by the Mediterranean; by the ocean west and south; and by the Red Sea and the isthmus of Suez on the east, which is the only place by which it communicates to the continent of Asia. Africa is a very hot climate; the soil is fruitful on the coasts, and in those parts which are watered by rivers; but in many of the interior parts it is covered with deserts and burning sands. It produces gold, silver, elephants' teeth, medicinal drugs, and gums produced by various sorts of wood, such as ebony, sandal, &c. They  
have

have many animals not to be met with in Europe,—such as lions, tigers, panthers, ostriches, monkeys of different species, cameleons, and serpents of an extraordinary size; and in some of their rivers they have crocodiles, the hippopotamus or sea-horse.

Q. What do you observe of the Africans?

A. They are for the most part ignorant and vicious; they are of a deep black, which may probably be occasioned by the heat of the climate; but nevertheless it is presumed their colour proceeds from some other reason; for it is known that there are people in America who have the same degree of heat, and yet are not so black.

Q. What knowledge had the ancients of Africa?

A. Barbary, or the northern part, was all they knew of it, of which the Romans, Vandals, and Saracens, were alternately masters; they thought it impossible the rest could be inhabited. It began to be better known in the fifteenth century, when the Portuguese visited the coasts, in search of a direct passage to the East Indies. Since then several trading people of Europe, the Dutch, English and French, have made settlements there.

Q. How are the Africans governed?

A. Some of them are governed by sovereigns, who treat them in a tyrannical manner; others  
live



live miserably in the deserts, without laws or morals. They are either Mahometans or Pagans; in some parts there are Jews; and in those parts where the Europeans traffic there are Christians.

Q. Have they any mountains?

A. They have three chains of high mountains; Mount Atlas in the north; the mountains of the Moon, in Abyssinia, towards the east; and the mountains of Sierra-Leona, in Guinea, towards the west.

Q. What capes have they?

A. They have three which are remarkable,—Cape Verd, in the west; the Cape of Good Hope in the south; and Cape Guardafui in the east.

Q. How is Africa divided?

A. In general it is divided into two principal parts; *terra firma*, and the islands which surround it. *Terra firma* comprehends ten considerable countries; three in the north, four in the middle, and three in the south. The three in the north are Egypt, towards the east; Barbary, towards the west; and the desert of Zara, south of Barbary. The four in the middle are Guinea, Nigritia, Nubia, and Abyssinia, running as here mentioned from west to east. The three in the south are Congo, Caffraria, and the coast of Zanguebar: the two first west of the Cape of Good Hope, and the last on the east.

## L E S S O N XCII.

*Of EGYPT.*

Q. WHAT is the situation of Egypt?

A. Egypt is situated in the most eastern part of Africa; it is bounded by the Mediterranean, on the north; by the Red Sea, on the east; by Nubia, on the south; and by Barbary, on the west. The air is hot and unwholesome; but though it is a sandy soil, yet it is rendered fruitful by the annual and periodical inundations of the Nile.

Q. What is the Nile?

A. It is a very large river, which rises in the mountains of Abyssinia, and running from south to north, traverses Egypt in all its length, and discharges itself into the Mediterranean. This river overflows every year, in the month of June, and lays the adjacent plains under water, which gives them an extraordinary fertility, from the slime which it leaves behind. The harvest is abundant when the waters rise from sixteen to fourscore feet; but there is a scarcity when it goes above the latter, or remains below the former. Philosophers attribute these inundations to the rains which fall in Abyssinia in the summer, and to the winds, which

which in that season blow constantly north from the Mediterranean, and swell the waters of that river.

Q. What is found in the Nile?

A. We meet with cataracts in that river, some of which are said to fall two hundred feet; it abounds with alligators of a monstrous size; this animal, commonly called the crocodile, is amphibious and voracious:—It is larger there than in any other place.

Q. What does Egypt produce?

A. It abounds in wheat, and is now the granary of the Turks, as it formerly was of the Romans; its other productions are, various fruits, olives, dates, and medicinal drugs, such as cassia and fenna. They have also very fine flax; and the natives breed a great number of chickens, which they hatch in ovens. Although their trade is greatly diminished since the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope, they nevertheless traffick still in Indian and Arabian goods, which the Turkish gallies bring over the Red Sea.

Q. What do you remark on the history of that country?

A. That it was the first inhabited country after the deluge. It was governed by its own sovereigns, of different families, and was afterwards under the dominion of Cambyfes, king of Persia, 530 years before Christ; after that Alexander the Great having abolished the kingdom of Persia, conquered also Egypt: at his death it was allotted to Ptole-  
meus,

meus, one of his generals, who was the first of the kings of Egypt of that name, three hundred and thirty years before Christ.

Q. Who governed Egypt after that ?

A. Ptolomeus Dionysius having been killed in a battle against Julius Cæsar, and his sister Cleopatra voluntarily poisoned by the sting of an aspic, after the death of Mark Anthony, the Romans took possession of it fifty-one years before Christ. It then became a province of the Roman empire; and remained so till the seventh century, when it was conquered by Omar, the second caliph, and became subject to the Saracens. About three hundred years after, the governors of Egypt made themselves independent of the caliphs, and took the title of sultan; among whom we remark the famous Saladin, so renowned in the history of the east; who distinguished himself as much by his virtue, as by his valour and successful defence against the Christians of the west, whom he forced to abandon, not only Egypt, but expelled them also from the Holy Land. After his death, in 1250, the Mameluks, or slaves, entered the empire; and it remained in their possession till it was entirely conquered by Seïm II. emperor of the Turks, in 1516.

Q. To whom does it now belong ?

A. It now constitutes a part of the Ottoman empire; and is governed by a bassa, who has several beys, or lieutenants under him:—It is the only government the Turks have in Africa; they were, nevertheless,



nevertheless, very near losing it some time after; for Ali Bey, a courageous and ambitious officer, found means to make himself master of Egypt; but having been abandoned by part of his army, was afterwards killed in battle, and the whole province restored to the grand signior.

Q. What do you observe of the Egyptians?

A. Those people, formerly so distinguished for their genius and love of science, are now, for the most part, degenerated into a set of ignorant and slothful robbers. The discoveries of astronomy, arithmetic, and geometry, was attributed to them; and particularly the art of surveying land; a science which the inundations of the Nile had rendered necessary.

Q. What religion do they profess?

A. They are mostly Mahometans; there are some schismatic Christians, called Cophtes, whose chief takes the name of patriarch of Alexandria. They have also among them Jews, and Greek Christians.

Q. How is Egypt divided?

A. It is generally divided according to the course of the Nile, into Upper and Lower Egypt; the former in the south, and the latter in the north. Upper Egypt is almost a barren country, and thinly peopled. There is nothing remarkable to be seen in it, except Girgé, the capital, a trading city, the residence of the sangiac, or lieutenant of the bassa. The capital of all Egypt is Cairo, in

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the lower division, on the eastern bank of the Nile; it is a large, populous, and trading city, and has a castle, where the governor resides. Cairo is divided into three grand precincts: the inhabitants manufacture divers sorts of woollen stuffs, particularly those known by the name of Turkey carpets. Near that city we find those famous pyramids built by their former kings for their burial places, the largest of which is five hundred and twenty feet high; there is also the famous labyrinth, and the lake of Moeris, dug by order of one of their kings, to remedy the too great, or too small inundation of the Nile. One may also see their mummies, which are embalmed bodies, petrified by time and the liquors in which they are preserved; they are generally met with in wells, which were their tombs.

Q. What other cities are there in Egypt?

A. The most considerable of Lower Egypt are, Alexandria, Rosetta, Damietta, and Suez. Alexandria, a sea-port on the Mediterranean, was formerly a rich city, and the staple of Indian merchandize, but now of little consequence; the Venetians and the French continue to carry on a small trade there. Rosetta lies east of Alexandria, near the mouth of the Nile; it is a place of some trade, as the goods of Cairo are transported there by means of a canal. Damietta on the Mediterranean, is a populous and trading city. St. Lewis, king of France, took it in the second crusade,

fade, in 1249; but having himself been made prisoner by the sultan, returned it to pay his ransom. Suez is a sea-port on the Red Sea, which gives its name to the isthmus that joins Africa to Asia; the Arabians trade there, and the grand signior keeps a certain number of gallies in the port.

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## LESSON XCIII.

### *Of* BARBARY.

*Q.* WHERE is Barbary?

*A.* It lies west of Egypt, and extends along the coasts of the Mediterranean, beyond the straits of Gibraltar; it is divided into two principal parts by mount Atlas; Barbary proper, in the north, and Biledulgerid in the south. Barbary proper is the most populous and fruitful country of all Africa; it produces corn, wine, and fruits in abundance. Their breed of horses is much esteemed, and they make a traffic of them, as also of their Morocco leather and coral.

*Q.* What are the inhabitants?

*Z 2*

*A.* They

*A.* They are of three sorts; the Moors, who are natives; a great number of Turks, who have made establishments there; and the independent Arabians, who inhabit the mountains toward the south.

*Q.* To whom did Barbary belong formerly?

*A.* It formerly constituted part of the Roman empire. It was taken from them by the Vandals, a northern people, in the sixth century; after which it passed under the dominion of the Saracens: at present the eastern part either belongs to the grand signior, or is under his protection; and the western, with the greatest part of Biledulgerid, belongs to the emperor of Morocco.

*Q.* What is their religion?

*A.* The Mahometan; there are nevertheless a great number of Jews, and some European Christians, who have settled there for the sake of trade.

*Q.* What is contained in Barbary proper?

*A.* Six states; all which are called kingdoms; Barca, Tripoli, Tunis, Algiers, Fez, and Morocco. They are all found, from east to west, along the coast of the ocean, and the Mediterranean, in the same order as above. The kingdom of Barca is fruitful near the coast; but the interior part is barren and desert: it is subject to the grand signior, and governed by a fan-giac;



giac; its capital is Derne, or Barca, a populous and fortified city.

*Q.* How are Tripoli, Tunis, and Algiers governed?

*A.* They are governed in the form of republics, under the protection of the grand signior, who has a basha resident in each of those cities. The chiefs of those states are called the deys; their places are for life: they preside at the sovereign council: the Turkish basha has very little authority. Besides their commerce in grain and fruits, the inhabitants practise a continual piracy over the Christians, and take great numbers prisoners, who can only be redeemed by large sums of money.

*Q.* What is the kingdom of Tripoli?

*A.* It is in general a barren and sandy soil; they gather the finest saffron, and various fruits. Tripoli, the capital, is a strong and trading city: it was bombarded by the French in 1728: it was taken in 1530, by the emperor Charles V.; who, in 1635, gave it to the knights of St. John, with the island of Malta; but the Turks took it from them, after a long, obstinate and bloody siege. The French and the English keep consuls there.

*Q.* Which is the capital of the kingdom of Tunis?

*A.* The capital is Tunis, a large, trading city, and a sea-port, at the extremity of the gulf of Goletta, where there is a fort of that name. St.

Lewis, king of France, died of the plague at the siege of Tunis. Towards the east we find the island of Lampelouse, belonging to the knights of Malta; and that of Pantaleria, dependent on the king of the Two Sicilies.

Q. Which is the capital of the kingdom of Algiers?

A. Algiers is the capital; it is a strong sea-port, and one of the richest and best built cities in Africa. Its inhabitants are the most formidable pirates in all Barbary. Lewis XIV. bombarded it twice last century. We meet with two other cities in that neighbourhood; Constantine, a strong place, and Bonne, a sea-port. The Spaniards have two cities in that kingdom, Oran\*, and Marfalquiver. The French have a fortress there, called the French bastion, near which they find great quantities of coral.

Q. To whom do the kingdoms of Fez and Morocco belong?

A. To the king of Morocco; he is a powerful prince, and takes the title of emperor of Africa, and a descendant of Mahomet. This is the most populous country of all Barbary. Their capitals are the cities of Fez, in the north, and Morocco, in the south; they are both well built. There is an Arabian academy in the first, and the second is well fortified. The king resides at Me-

\* Destroyed by an earthquake in 1790.

quinez, a city west of Fez, where he has an elegant palace. Besides these there are in the kingdom of Morocco, the cities of Larache and Mogadore, both sea-ports; Ceuta, a fortified place, on the strait of Gibraltar, belonging to Spain; Tetuan and Mazagan, belonging to Portugal; and Sallee, a port on the ocean, famous for piracy.

Q. Where is Biledulgerid situated?

A. It is a very extensive country which lies between Barbary proper, on the north, and Zaira, or the Desert, on the south, having Egypt on the east, and the ocean on the west. It is a hot climate; the soil is dry and sandy. Its chief production is dates, which the natives exchange for corn: most part of the inhabitants are originally Arabs. Their principal employment is hunting ostriches, (which abound in that country) and selling their feathers to the Europeans. Biledulgerid contains several kingdoms, some of which are subject to the king of Morocco; others constitute a part of the states of Algiers and Tunis; and some are independent. The most considerable of these kingdoms are Susa and Tafilet, towards the west, subject to the king of Morocco.

## L E S S O N XCIV.

*ZARA and GUINEA.*

Q. WHAT country is Zara?

A. They call Zara, or the Desert, a vast extent of land, bounded on the north by Biledulgerid; by the unknown parts of Africa on the east; by Nigritia on the south; and by the Atlantic ocean on the west. It is an almost barren country, much less populous than Biledulgerid, and almost covered with burning sands. The natives have fixed habitations, but the Arabs, who are very numerous, are vagabonds and robbers: they all profess the Mahometan religion. Zara is divided into several deserts, which bear the name of the people they contain; of whom travellers can give but an imperfect account, as little of the country is known beyond the western coast, on which there are two remarkable capes, Cape Bojador and Cape Blanca, which were discovered by the Portuguese in the fifteenth century. The French are masters of a port called Portentico, to which they resort to purchase gum senegal, which abounds in the forests. Caravans from Morocco travel all through the country to Nigritia, where they traffic in gold and slaves: but water is so scarce,



scarce, that their camels are loaded with little else.

Q. What is Guinea?

A. We comprehend under that denomination, all that part of the western coast of Africa which lies between Zāra on the north, Congo on the south, and Nigritia on the east. The climate is hot, but tempered by cool nights, and refreshing dews. They have but two seasons, summer, and winter, which is their rainy season. The soil produces rice and fruits. They trade in gold dust, which is found in their rivers, elephants' teeth, and slaves. The American traders purchase negroes there, and transport them to America: they find them to be robust, and more capable than others to work in their mines. The people of Guinea are perfectly black; they are addicted to many vices, the fruits of ignorance; and are all idolaters. In some places they have kings, and are republicans in others. The French were the first who made settlements there, in the fourteenth century; and after them the Portuguese, and the English; but at present the Dutch carry on the greatest trade. It is divided into two parts, the one north and the other south. In the northern division they have two rivers, the Senegal in the north, and the Gambia in the south: they both run from east to west.

Q. What are the European establishments?

A. The

*A.* The French are in possession of fort St. Lewis, near the mouth of the river Senegal ; and the island of Goree : but by the treaty in 1762, they were obliged to give them up to the English, who have also fort St. James, at the mouth of the Gambia.

*Q.* How is Southern Guinea divided ?

*A.* Into three parts ; the coast of Malaguetta, in the north ; Guinea proper, in the middle ; and the kingdom of Benin, in the south.

*Q.* How is Guinea proper divided ?

*A.* Into four parts ; the grain coast, the tooth coast, the gold coast, and the slave coast,—all names taken from the trade carried on in each of them. The Dutch have made a settlement at St. George de la Mina ; the English at Cape Corfe ; and the Danes at Christiansbourg ; these three forts are established for the protection of trade with the natives.

*Q.* What is the kingdom of Benin ?

*A.* It is the most extensive of all those we meet with in the southern division of Guinea ; it is very populous, and abounds in cotton and pepper. The capital is Benin, where the Dutch and Portuguese trade considerably.

## L E S S O N XCV.

NIGRITIA, NUBIA, *and* ABYSSINIA.

Q. WHERE is Nigritia situated?

A. Nigritia, or Negro-land, lies in the interior part of Africa, east of Guinea and south of Zara; the air is hot and unwholesome; the soil is productive only in the vicinity of the rivers, where it produces rice, flax, and cotton; the rest of the country is barren, and only inhabited by wild beasts, and a miserable set of negroes, as black as those of Guinea, with wool instead of hair; some are Mahometans, and others have neither religion, morals, government, nor fixed habitations; the caravans from Barbary trade there for gold and elephants' teeth; the negroes go to Guinea, where they sell each other to the Europeans, who give them bars of iron, linen, and hard-ware in return

Q. What rivers have they?

A. It is watered by the Niger, which gives its name to the country, and has its periodical inundations the same as the Nile; it runs from west to east, and falls into the lake of Bornou; the country is so situated as not to be perfectly explored: it contains several kingdoms,—the two principal are Tombut and Bornou.

I

Q. Where

Q. Where is Nubia situated?

A. Nubia, which is called a kingdom, is bounded by Egypt on the north,—by the Red Sea on the east,—by Abyssinia on the south,—and by Nigritia on the west; the soil is not very fruitful; its most valuable produce is gold, ivory, musk, and sandal-wood: the Nile crosses it entirely from south to north. The religion of the inhabitants is a mixture of Mahometanism and Judaism; formerly they were Christians. It is subject to the king of Sennar, who resides in the capital of that name; it is a large and populous city, on the Nile.

Q. Where is Abyssinia situated?

A. It lies south of Nubia; it has the Red Sea on the east,—and Nigritia on the west. It is in general a mountainous and barren country, except in those places which are watered by the Nile, and there it produces rice in abundance; they have, it is true, sugar-canes, and mines of different metals, but the natives do not avail themselves of them. They trade but little with foreigners, unless for flax and cotton: they have also some senna and other medicinal drugs. The natives are black, but not so hideous as the negroes; they are of the Greek church, and the sect of Cophtes; they acknowledge the authority of the patriarch of Alexandria, who names their bishop. Some Portuguese missionaries had settled there in the sixteenth century, but were expelled,



expelled, and the entrance of Catholick missionaries prohibited in Abyffinia.

Q. How is that country governed?

A. By a prince who takes the title of Emperor, or Negus, and who exercises an absolute authority; this empire has suffered great restrictions from a neighbouring and cruel people called Galls; and by the Turks on the Red Sea.

Q. Are there any cities in that country?

A. The best geographers assert, that there are no cities, but a great number of villages,—and that the emperor and all his court live under tents; so that his camp may be looked upon as the capital of his kingdom. Towards the eastern coast we find Abex, on the Red Sea; it entirely belongs to the Grand Signior, who keeps a bassa in the kingdom of Suaquem, a sea-port.

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## LESSON XCVI.

CONGO, CAFFRARIA, *and* ZANGUEBAR.

Q. WHAT is the situation of Congo?

A. It lays along the western coast of Africa,—has Guinea on the north, and Caffraria on the south; it is watered by the river Zaira, which  
runs

runs from east to west. What is in general called Congo, is an assemblage of several kingdoms, known under their particular denominations, of which Congo is much the largest, and so gives its name to the whole. The productions of this country are much the same as in Guinea; they have mines of iron and copper, but their greatest trade is in slaves; the principal kingdoms which compose what is generally called Congo, are Loango, Congo, Angola, and Benguela; they are situated from north to south.

*Q.* Of what religion are the natives?

*A.* They were formerly all idolaters,—but by the exertions of the Portuguese missionaries, many of them have embraced christianity.

*Q.* To whom are those kingdoms subject?

*A.* The kingdom of Loango has its own sovereign, who resides in a capital of that name. Congo has also its sovereign, who is a Christian, as well as great part of his subjects; he resides in his capital, called San Salvador, which is a bishoprick; the Portuguese engross almost the whole trade; they have several churches, and a building erected by the Jesuits for their habitation, built with stones brought from Europe.

*Q.* What is the kingdom of Angola?

*A.* It is a fruitful and populous kingdom, and belongs to the king of Portugal; its capital is St. Paul-de-Loanda, a bishoprick, and a sea-port; it is a large city, the residence of the Portuguese governor.

*Q.* What

Q. What do you observe of Benguela?

A. It is an unwholesome country,—but has some silver mines; it formerly belonged to Portugal; but the Dutch have since made themselves masters of St. Philip, the capital.

Q. What is Caffraria?

A. It is the southern part of Africa, which terminates in a point or promontory; that country is bounded on the north by Congo and Zanguebar, and by the sea on the three other sides; it may be divided into two parts,—the coasts and the inland country; which last contains the empires of Monomotapa and Monmevugi, with many other countries but imperfectly known. The Portuguese penetrated into Monomotapa, which they call the golden kingdom, and say it is subject to a very powerful prince, who resides in the city of Zimbabue; but they trade no more there. The interior parts of Africa are inhabited by divers sets of cruel, barbarous, and vagabond people,—such as the Galls, the Jagos, and the Anzicains, which are said to be cannibals.

Q. What are the people who inhabit the south?

A. They are called Hottentots,—they are the ugliest, most slovenly and brutal creatures of all Africa; their religion consists only in some superstitious ceremonies. The maritime part of Caffraria is in a pure and wholesome air; the soil abounds in grain, fruits, and pasture, on which they feed a vast number of cattle. It is divided  
into

into eastern and western coasts; they both unite in one point called the Cape of Good Hope; which is the ordinary passage for ships to the East Indies. This important cape was discovered by the Portuguese, under the conduct of Bartholomew Diaz, and first sailed round by Vasco de Gama, towards the end of the fifteenth century; the first called it Cape Torment, on account of the violent tempests they experienced.

Q. Who are the Europeans established there?

A. The Dutch have a very considerable settlement at the Cape of Good Hope, which is a place of refreshment for ships going to, or coming from India. The Dutch have also a beautiful garden there, where plants of the four parts of the world are found; they have even advanced into the interior parts, and have planted vines which produce excellent wine.

Q. What is met with on the eastern coast?

A. On that coast, towards the north, we find Sofala, on a river of that name, where the Portuguese have a fort for the protection of their trade with the Caffrees, who bring them gold, ivory, and ambergris.

Q. Where is Zanguebar situated?

A. It lies north of Caffraria, and occupies all the eastern coast as far as the Red Sea: it comprehends two coasts,—that of Zanguebar proper, and Ajan, towards the north; it is a marshy country, and on that account very unwholesome.

They



They traffic in gold and ivory; it is inhabited by the natives, who are idolaters,—and by Arabs, who are Mahometans; the coast of Zanguebar is divided from south to north, into several kingdoms, the chief of which are Mozambique, Mombaze and Melinda; each of them bears the name of its capital. The Portuguese are the only Europeans who trade there, and have forts; they have a governor at Mozambique, which is a large and fortified city, and stands on an island.

Along the coast of Ajan we find the republick of Brava, which is tributary to Portugal; its capital bears the same name; it is a sea-port, and a place of great trade. Towards the north we find the kingdom of Adel.

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## LESSON XCVII.

### *Of the Islands of AFRICA.*

Q. How are the islands of Africa divided?

A. They may be disposed in two classes, some east and others west of that continent. Those on the west are subdivided into five portions: the Azores, the island of Madeira, the Canary islands, those of Cape Verd, and those of Guinea.

A a

Q. Where

Q. Where are the Azores situated?

A. They lay at some distance from the continent, between Africa and America. It lies in a pure and wholesome air; and though it is a mountainous country, the soil is productive.—From thence comes the best woad made use of by painters and dyers. These islands were first discovered by some Flemish navigators, in the fifteenth century, but the Portuguese are possessors of them now; and the inhabitants are Catholics. They are nine in number, the largest of which is Tercera; the capital Angra, a seaport and bishoprick, the residence of the Portuguese governor.

Q. Where is the island of Madeira?

A. Madeira, to which we must add that of Porto-Santo, lies west of the coasts of Barbary. It produces corn, fruits, sugar-canes, and particularly an excellent wine, for which they trade considerably in America. It belongs to the Portuguese, who discovered it in 1420. The king keeps a governor at Funchal, which is the capital and a bishoprick. Porto-Santo, north of Madeira, belongs also to Portugal. It produces good honey, and a gum called dragon's-blood.

Q. Where are the Canary islands?

A. They lie on the western coast of Barbary, and south of Madeira; they are very populous and productive; they abound in sugar, honey, wax, fruits and excellent wine. They belong

to the Spaniards, who took them from Normans, who had discovered them. The natives are now all Catholics; these islands are twelve in number; the largest are Teneriffe, Canary and Ferro. Teneriffe is the most extensive of all; its capital is Laguna, a bishoprick, the residence of the Spanish governor. There we find the famous pico of Teneriffe, one of the highest mountains in the world, and a dangerous volcano. The island of Canary proper, which gives its name to all the others, is a very fruitful soil, produces wine and fruits, but particularly corn, of which they have two crops a year. Canary, a bishoprick and sea-port, is the capital.

*Q.* Where is the island of Ferro?

*A.* It is the most western of all; it is there the French have fixed their first meridian.

*Q.* Where are the islands of Cape Verd?

*A.* They lay west of Nigritia, opposite the cape, and at the mouth of the river Senegal;—they are in a hot and unwholesome climate, and produce little besides rice and fruits. They deal chiefly in salt, goats-skins, and turtles, of which there are plenty on the coasts. In those islands the Portuguese (who discovered them in the fifteenth century) transport their convicts. The largest of them is that called St. James's Island; its capital is Ribeira, a bishoprick, the residence of the governor.

Q. What are the islands of Guinea?

A. We comprehend under that denomination, several islands opposite the coasts of Guinea and Congo. The most considerable are St. Thomas, Prince's Island, and that of St. Helen's. The climate of the two first is unwholesome, and fatal to the Europeans. They belong to the king of Portugal, who keeps a governor at St. Thomas, which is a bishoprick, and the capital of the island of that name.

Q. Where is the island of St. Helen's?

A. It lies south of the last mentioned islands, and west of the Cape of Good Hope, in a very wholesome air. It abounds in cattle and vegetables of all sorts. It belongs to the English, who have there a considerable settlement, advantageous for trade, and where their ships put in on their return from India.

Q. What islands are there on the eastern coast of Africa?

A. They are very numerous; the most remarkable are those of Madagascar, Bourbon, Maurice, the Comoras, and Socotora. The island of Madagascar is much the largest, and situated east of the coast of Zanguebar; it is fruitful and populous; it produces valuable woods, such as sandal, ebony, &c. They also find different gems in the earth; but the cruel disposition of the natives has made it impracticable for any European nation to form establishments there.—

The



The French had landed, built a fort, and made a treaty of commerce with the islanders, but they soon after surprised the unsuspecting garrison, and slaughtered them all. The island of Bourbon lies east of Madagascar; it belongs to the French,—it furnishes them with aloes, tobacco and coffee, which they first planted there: it is the staple of that nation for their trade in India. The island St. Maurice was thus called by the Dutch; but since it belongs to the French, they call it the *Ile de France*, or French Island. It lies east of Bourbon; it produces ebony and tortoise-shell. The Comora Island lies north of Madagascar, and belongs to several petty princes tributary to Portugal. They trade in ginger and cocoa nuts. The island of Socotora lies east of Cape Gardafui; it is inhabited by Mahometan Arabs: the Portuguese trade there for frankincense and aloes: the capital is Tamarin.

## FOURTH PART.

## LESSON XCVIII.

## AMERICA.

Q. **W**HAT is America?

A. It is that vast continent called the New World, situated west of Europe and Africa, for which reason it is also called the West Indies. It is bounded on the north by the Arctic circle; by the Atlantic ocean, which separates it from Europe and Africa, on the east; by the strait of Magellan on the south; and by the Pacific ocean or South Sea, on the west. The great extent of this country, which is more than eight thousand miles in length, from north to south, is a reason for the air and soil being extremely different; in the middle part it is excessively hot, and at the two extremities intensely cold.

Q. What

Q. What is the produce of America ?

A. In general the soil is fertile, and produces all the necessaries of life ; Indian wheat is the ordinary food of the inhabitants ; they have divers fruits which do not grow in Europe. The things which constitute their riches are sugar, tobacco, cocoa, cochineal, indigo, woods for staining, pearls and other gems ; but above all, their gold and silver mines, which are abundant, and of great advantage to the Europeans.

Q. Was America known by the ancients ?

A. It is presumed it was, but that they had forsaken it, and no idea of it remained for several centuries. It was discovered by Christopher Columbus, a Genoese, an able navigator and good astronomer ; he had fixed his residence in the island of Madeira, and persuaded himself, by many observations he had made, that there certainly was land in the west. Having determined to go out on a search, he presented his plan to several sovereigns, who rejected it. At last Ferdinand V. king of Arragon, having approved of it, gave him all that was necessary for his voyage. Having thus gained what he desired, in 1492, he sailed with three small ships ; and after a long and painful navigation, discovered one of the Bahama islands, to which he gave the name of San-Salvador. Proud of having found a new world, he returned to Europe, but shortly after sailed out again, and landed at some of the Ca-

ribbe islands, of which he took possession in the name of the king of Spain.

Q. Did any other undertake the same voyage?

A. Yes; some years after Americus Vespucius, a Florentine, went the same road, and pretended, in 1497; to the honour of landing first on the continent of America; and gave his name to a part of it. The Spaniards were the first who made settlements there; they were shortly after followed by the Portuguese, and successively by all the trading nations of Europe. But as those powers had nothing more in view than to establish themselves on the coasts, there are several provinces of which the interior parts are yet unknown.

Q. How is America supposed to have been peopled?

A. It is presumed, from the last discoveries made by the Russians, that the first inhabitants of America came from the north-east of Asia;—those two parts being very near to each other, and having several islands between them. This opinion is further confirmed by the resemblance observed between the Asiatics and the North Americans, in their complexion, arms, and food.

Q. What is their religion?

A. The natives are Pagans; but at present many of them profess the Christian religion, in which



which they have been instructed by the Europeans. Four sorts of inhabitants are now remarked in America; the natives; the mulattos, born of an European and American; the Europeans, who are established there; and the negroes brought from Africa.

Q. What mountains have they?

A. Two chains of very remarkable mountains; the Cordeliers [of Peru, which extend from the isthmus of Panama, to the strait of Magellan; and the Apalachian mountains in Virginia.

Q. What capes have they?

A. The principal capes are Cape Breton, at the entrance of the river St. Laurence, towards the north; Cape Florida, in the gulf of Mexico, in the middle; and Cape St. Augustin, in the south.

Q. Have they any lakes?

A. Yes; the most considerable are the lake Superior, the lake Erié, and the lake Ontario; which are found in the north, and communicate to each other.

Q. How is America divided?

A. Into *Terra Firma*, and its islands. *Terra Firma* is divided into northern and southern, joined by the isthmus of Panama or Darien.

LESSON

## L E S S O N XCIX.

*Of NORTH-AMERICA.*

Q. What does North America contain ?

A. Five principal countries ; New France, New England, Florida, New Mexico, Old Mexico, or New Spain ; they are all found on the maps in the order here indicated, from north to south.

Q. What is New France ?

A. It is the most northern part of America ; and so called, because the French had their chief settlements there ; it contains two countries, Canada and Louisiana. By the treaty of peace, in 1762, France gave up to England all its possessions on the terra firma of North America, except Louisiana, which was given to the Spaniards in 1767 ; since that, the Spaniards and the English were in possession of all North America, except the inland parts, which still belong to the natives, till the last revolution, of which we will speak hereafter.

Q. Where is Canada situated ?

A. It is bounded on the north by Hudson's Bay ; by the North Sea and New England, on the east ; by Florida, on the south ; and by New Mexico, and other unknown countries, on the west. The air is cold, because the country abounds with lakes and forests ; the soil is fruitful, and produces good grain ; they have iron and copper mines, and  
various

various species of wild beasts: they trade in furs, such as bear-skins, fox-skins, martens, and beavers; besides timber for ship-building, and great quantities of cod-fish, which are met with near the coast.

Q. By whom was Canada discovered?

A. By some fishermen of Brittany, who were thrown upon it in 1504; after which John Verrazzan invaded it in the name of Francis I. under whose reign the first establishments were made. It is now subject to the king of England, who sends a governor there.

Q. What is remarked of the natives of Canada?

A. They are divided into several nations; the most populous of which are the Iroquois, the Hurons, and the Algonquins; they are hardy, courageous, and dextrous.

Q. What is their religion?

A. Some among them are Roman Catholics, and others idolaters. They rub themselves with oil, and paint their bodies of various colours: they obey their own princes, called sagamos. Their arms are a bow, an arrow, and a club. Their chief employment is hunting and fishing; their wives manure the land: they trade with the English, who are allied to them, and have forts in their country. Canada is watered by the river St. Lawrence, which traverses it from west to east, and falls into the gulf of that name.

Q. How is Canada divided?

A. Into

*A.* Into five provinces; which are, Labrador, in the north; Canada proper, and Saguenac, in the south; and Gaspésie and Acadia, in the east.

*Q.* What is Labrador?

*A.* It is a very cold country, situated on Hudson's-Bay, inhabited by savages, called Esquimaux. The English are the only people who trade with the natives for their furs.

*Q.* Which is the capital of Canada?

*A.* Quebec, on the river St. Lawrence; it is a bishoprick, and the residence of the English governor: it is a well-built city, very populous, and defended by a good citadel. There is also Montreal, west of Quebec, a fortified city, and a place of great trade in furs.

*Q.* What is Acadia?

*A.* It is a peninsula, east of the river St. Lawrence: it was ceded to the English by the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713; they have since established a considerable colony there, called Nova Scotia: Port Royal is the capital. It is remarkable, that in 1755, a war broke out between England and France, about fixing the boundaries of that country.

*Q.* Where is Louisiana situated?

*A.* It is bounded by Canada, on the north; by Florida, on the east; by Mexico, on the south; and by unknown lands, on the west. It is called Louisiana, because it was discovered under the reign of Lewis XIV. by M. de la Salle, who died  
in



in the expedition. It is an extensive country, and fruitful towards the south: it is covered with forests, and inhabited by different sorts of savages, such as the Panis, and the Padoucas. The interior part is little known: it is watered by the great river Mississippi, which traverses it from north to south, and falls into the gulf of Mexico. The chief establishment is New Orleans, the residence of the French governor, before it was given up to Spain.

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## L E S S O N C.

NORTH AMERICA *continued.*

NEW ENGLAND *and* FLORIDA.

Q. WHAT is understood by New England?

A. That name has been given to all that part of North America where the English had settlements, except those provinces of which we have spoken in the foregoing lesson. It is bounded north and west by Canada, and is situated along the coast of the northern sea, which is its boundary on the south. The air is wholesome, the climate  
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## L E S S O N C.

NORTH AMERICA *continued.*

NEW ENGLAND *and* FLORIDA.

Q. WHAT is understood by New England?

A. That name has been given to all that part of North America where the English had settlements, except those provinces of which we have spoken in the foregoing lesson. It is bounded north and west by Canada, and is situated along the coast of the northern sea, which is its boundary on the south. The air is wholesome, the climate

is

is mild and temperate, and the soil produces all the necessaries of life.—They have rice, tobacco, furs, silk and timber. The coasts of New England were successively discovered by different navigators in the sixteenth century. Sir Walter Raleigh called that country Virginia, in honour of Queen Elizabeth. Those colonies are now numerous and populous; they carry on a great trade through the mildness of its laws, and the liberty of conscience they enjoy. They were subject to governors sent by the king of England; but the inhabitants, who till then had enjoyed very extensive privileges, thinking themselves oppressed, their commerce restrained, and overburthened with taxes, revolted against the English government, and declared their independence. The French, always ready to foment, and take an active part in all intestine broils, whenever they find their advantage, entered into a treaty with the new republicans, and aided them to the utmost of their power. This illiberal conduct created a long and bloody war, which England *alone* sustained for more than six years, against the united powers of France, Spain, Holland and America, besides an Indian war against Hyder Ally; and after that, to the astonishment of all the rest of Europe, who had remained idle spectators, England made the most honourable peace in 1783: at the same time that they acknowledged the independency of the Americans.

Q. How



Q. How are they governed at present ?

A. The whole country is composed of thirteen provinces, who have entered into a confederacy, and formed one sole republick, modelled on that of the United Provinces of Holland. They are governed by a congress, composed of the deputies of each province, which decides sovereignly. They have paid great honours to General Washington, who was their chief commander in the rebellion, and who, by his prudence, contributed greatly to their success.

Q. What do you observe of the natives ?

A. That they are, in general, a mild people ; most of them idolaters ; some follow the religion of their masters, and trade with them for furs. The whole thirteen provinces lay along the coast, the chief of which extend from north to south, viz. New England proper, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Carolina. The capital of New England is Boston, a sea-port, a large and well-built city, which is the centre of their trade : there is also New York, the capital of the province of that name. Pennsylvania takes its name from William Penn, chief of the Quakers, to whom Charles II. gave it, in 1681 ; it is mostly inhabited by that sect, and who, as in England, affect the greatest simplicity ; they apply themselves to agriculture and commerce, never take an oath, or serve in war. The capital is Philadelphia, a large, populous, rich, and trading city. Virginia is reputed the best of all the thirteen

teen

teen provinces ; its chief produce is tobacco, held in good esteem ; its capital is James-town, a fortified sea-port. Carolina produces chiefly rice ; they feed large herds of cattle,—and begin to have silk worms : its capital is Charlestown. There is also Petersburg, a Swiss colony. The southern part of Carolina is called Georgia, because there was a colony established there under the reign of George II. in 1732, on which is Fort St. George.

Q. Where is Florida situated ?

A. Florida is an extensive peninsula, bounded north and west by Louisiana ; by Carolina and the north sea, on the east ; and by the gulf of Mexico, on the south ; it was called Florida, from its being discovered by Ferdinand Soto, a Spaniard, on Palm Sunday, 1528. After which, the French had established themselves there under the reign of Charles IX. but the Spaniards took them prisoners by surprise, and murdered them all, in violation of an oath taken at the capitulation. In order to revenge this act of cruelty, Dominique de Gourgues, a gentleman from Gascony, fitted out a vessel at his own expence, sailed to Florida in 1565, surprised, in his turn, the Spaniards in their fort, and had them all hung on the same trees on which the French had suffered ; notwithstanding that, the Spaniards once more entered Florida, and preserved it till the treaty of 1762, by which they were forced to

to abandon it to the English. It is a fruitful country; the natives are brave,—enemies to the Europeans, and trade very little with them; they are idolaters, and have preserved their independence. The English are the only people established there; they have two forts, St. Augustin, on the eastern coast,—and Pensacola, on the gulf of Mexico.

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## LESSON CI.

NORTH AMERICA *continued.*

NEW *and* OLD MEXICO.

Q. WHAT is New Mexico?

A. It is a vast tract of land but little known; it lies on the west of North America; it is bounded on the east by Louisiana,—on the south by Old Mexico,—and on the west by the gulf of California; the air is wholesome and temperate; the soil is fertile,—it produces Indian wheat, and many sorts of fruit; there are gold, silver, and diamond mines. It is inhabited by different sets of savages, who live by hunting, and the produce of the land, which they cultivate; they are ido-  
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laters,

laters, and obey their chiefs, called Caciques. The Spaniards, who discovered it in the sixteenth century, have made some settlements, the chief of which is Santa Fé, the capital, a bishoprick, and the residence of the governor.

Q. What is met with on the west of New Mexico?

A. We find a country called California, which is a peninsula, joined to the continent on the north. The coasts and the southern part of the country are all that are known of it. It is an agreeable and fruitful country: they fish for pearls on the coasts. The Jesuits had a settlement at Cape St. Luca. There is an interesting observation to be made for geography,—which is, that the Russians, after having formed a settlement at Kamtschatka, undertook, in 1741, to discover the western coasts of America, by the South Seas; they found that the strait of Anian, which separates Asia from America, is but fifty leagues over; that for a great part of the year it is frozen up; and that in its width there are several islands; all which serves as a proof, that it is at least probable, that by their vicinity, America may have been peopled from Asia?

Q. Where is Old Mexico?

A. Old Mexico, commonly called New Spain, is bounded on the north by New Mexico, and extends all the way to the isthmus of Panama, between the north and south sea; the air is  
pure,



pure,—the climate temperate,—and the soil produces corn, Indian wheat, and all sorts of fruits; their pasture lands are excellent: they have also gold and silver mines; besides which they furnish cocoa, indigo, cochineal, and perfumes.

Q. How was Mexico governed formerly?

A. By very powerful kings, who were nevertheless elective; the last of whom was Montezuma, under whose reign the Spaniards, conducted by Ferdinand Cortes, undertook the conquest of that kingdom, in 1518: in the space of three years they made themselves masters of the whole kingdom. Montezuma, after losing several battles, was obliged to admit the Spaniards into his capital, in 1521, where he was made prisoner by Cortes, and afterwards killed in a sedition. Although the Spaniards were not more than a thousand, they several times defeated considerable armies of Mexicans, which must be attributed to their fire-arms, as much as to the courage of their chiefs. Since that, Mexico has always been subject to the king of Spain, who keeps a viceroy there. The natives are now Roman Catholics, or, at least, are obliged to appear such for fear of the inquisition. The Mexicans are mild, industrious, and formed by nature for arts and commerce,—but the Spaniards do not use them well; they are admitted to no posts, neither civil nor ecclesiastical: strangers are not even permitted to enter that rich country.

Q. How is Mexico divided?

A. Into three governments,—that of Mexico in the middle; that of Gaudalaria, north; and that of Guatimala, south; each of which has the name of its capital, and contains several provinces. The capital of all the kingdom is Mexico, situated on the lake of that name; it is an archbishoprick, and the residence of the viceroy: this is the largest and finest city of North America. The churches are magnificent; there are a great number of convents,—and its inhabitants live in splendour and luxury. In the government of Mexico there is also Vera-Cruz, a sea-port, the rendezvous of the European merchants; Acapulco, a sea-port on the South Sea, from whence the galleon sets sail yearly for the Philippines; and Campechy, in the peninsula of Yucatan, from whence they get the coloured wood for dyers. In the government of Guatimala is Leon de Nicaragua, a large and trading city, situated on a lake which communicates with the north sea; its capital, of the same name, was almost destroyed by an earthquake, in 1773.

## L E S S O N CII.

*The Islands of NORTH AMERICA.*

Q. WHAT islands are there in North America?

A. There are a great number of islands, which are found in the northern sea, east of the continent of America. They may be ranged in four general classes: the islands of Newfoundland,—the Bermudas,—the Lucayes or Bahamas,—and the Caribbees; they will be found on the maps in the order here indicated, from north to south.

Q. Where are the islands of Newfoundland?

A. They are situated in the gulf of St. Lawrence, opposite the coast of New France. Four of them are most worthy of remark,—Newfoundland proper, Cape Breton, St. John, and Anticosti; all these islands had been ceded to the English by the treaty of peace of 1762, but the French, who had lost all their possessions in Newfoundland, have recovered part of them by the treaty of 1783.

Q. What is to be observed of Newfoundland?

A. Newfoundland proper is one of the largest of all America; it was discovered in the fifteenth century by some fishermen of Biscay,—but as the Europeans only frequent it for their fisheries, they have made no establishments but on the

coasts ; its capital is Placentia, a sea-port in the south. On the east of the island is the great sand-bank frequented yearly by the Europeans for their cod and whale fisheries.

Q. What is the island of Cape Breton ?

A. It is an island of great importance by its situation ; its capital is Louisbourg, a sea-port, of which the English made themselves masters in the late war, and demolished the fortifications.

Q. In what situation are the Bermudas ?

A. They were discovered in the sixteenth century by the Spaniards ; they lay opposite the coast of Virginia ; they belong to the English. One of them only is considerable, called Bermuda,—it produces silk, tobacco, and turtles of an extraordinary size. There is also the city of St. George, which is the residence of the governor.

Q. Where are the Bahama islands ?

A. The Bahamas, or Lucayes, are situated along the coasts of Florida, and are separated from it by a dangerous canal, called the channel of Bahama. The Spaniards and the English have occupied it alternately ; the former have abandoned them, and taken with them great part of the inhabitants. The largest of those islands are Bahama,—San Salvador, the first discovered by Christopher Columbus,—and Providence island, where the English have erected a fort, after having expelled a gang of pirates who were settled there.

Q. How



Q. How are the Caribbees divided ?

A. They are distinguished under the denomination of large and small ; the large are situated south of Florida, and at the entrance of the gulf of Mexico ; we reckon four of them, which are Cuba, Jamaica, St. Domingo, and Porto Rico.

Q. What is the island of Cuba ?

A. It is the largest of the Antilles or Caribbees ; it lies opposite to the point of Florida ; it is a mountainous country, which produces but very little ; it has some few mines ; but its greatest trade is in those tobacco leaves with which they make the Spanish snuff. Parrots are very abundant all over the island. It has belonged, ever since it was discovered, to the Spaniards, who have destroyed all the natives, and transport negroes from Africa to cultivate their lands. The capital is Havanna, in the east of the island ; it is a large and trading city, the residence of the governor. It has a spacious and sure port, with a strong citadel ; this is the rendezvous of all the Spanish ships which return from America to Europe : the English had once taken possession of it, but returned it to the Spaniards.

## L E S S O N CIII.

*The Islands of NORTH AMERICA continued.*

Q. WHAT is Jamaica?

A. It is an island situated south of Cuba; the soil is fruitful, and produces chiefly sugar, tobacco, and cotton; they have also numbers of tortoises. This island also produces a very extraordinary tree called Lagetto; the bark of which they raise in lays of different thickneses, which they spin, and of which they make different stuffs, linen and lace.

Q. To whom does that island belong?

A. It formerly belonged to the Spaniards, but they were driven out of it by the English in 1655, who are still masters of it; they have established it into a noble colony, which is to them of great importance for their trade. The capital is Spanish-Town, formerly San-Jago de la Vega. It is a large, rich, and populous city, and the residence of the governor. Port-Royal, which is their principal sea-port, is four leagues distant from the capital.

Q. Where is the island of St. Domingo?

A. It lies east of Cuba, and is the richest of all the Caribbee islands: the climate is hot and unwholesome,

wholesome, but the soil is productive; it furnishes them with tobacco, sugar, indigo, and cochineal; there are also gold and silver mines in the mountains. It was discovered in 1492, by Christopher Columbus; who called it Hispaniola. It was then very populous, but the Spaniards destroyed all the natives, after having treated them with the utmost cruelty. For a long time this island had two masters, the Spaniards in the east, and the French in the west; but the Spaniards having exchanged all their possessions in that island for Louisiana, the French have ever since remained sole masters of it. The capital of the eastern part is St. Domingo, an archbishoprick, the former residence of the governor of all the Spanish Antilles; it is a large, but unwholesome city, and not very populous. The capital of the West is the Cape François, or French Cape, a populous and well fortified borough; there is also the city of Leogana.

Q. What is Porto-Rico?

A. It is the smallest of all the great Caribbee islands. It lies east of St. Domingo, and its produce is much the same. It belongs to the Spaniards, who destroyed the natives as soon as they were masters of it. Its capital is St. John de Porto-Rico, a bishoprick and sea-port.

Q. Where are the small Antilles?

A. There are a considerable number of them situated in the gulf of Mexico; they extend in  
the

the form of a semi-circle, from the island of Porto-Rico, almost to the coast of South America. It is a hot climate, and unwholesome to the Europeans; but the islands, in general, abound in cocoa, sugar, tobacco, cotton, and other useful productions. They are very subject to earthquakes and hurricanes, which sometimes lay the whole country waste. In some of them the trading nations of Europe have made considerable settlements; there are, nevertheless, some of them still in the power of the natives, whom they suppose to be cannibals, and are idolaters: but those subject to Europeans, profess the same religion as their masters.

Q. How are those islands divided?

A. Into as many classes as there are powers who have subjected them, which are five; the French, the English, the Spaniards, the Dutch, and the Danes.

Q. Which are those belonging to the French?

A. The most considerable of the French possessions are, Martinico, in the middle, Gaudaloupe and Maria-Galarde, in the north. Martinico is the richest of the French colonies; it produces sugar, indigo, and coffee. They have also a root called Manioco, of which the inhabitants make bread. The capital is Fort Royal, where the governor of all the French islands resides.

Q. Which are the English islands?

A. Those



*A.* Those belonging to England are, Barbadoes, Barbuda, Antigua, St. Christopher's, and Grenada. Barbadoes is one of the finest colonies of all the Antilles; its principal produce is sugar, and diverse fruits. The capital is Bridge-Town, a seaport, a rich and trading city: it is the only city of all the Caribbee islands surrounded by a wall.

*Q.* What do the Dutch possess?

*A.* Their principal establishment is the island of Curaccoa, which produces sugar, and where they have a fort.

*Q.* What have the Spaniards?

*A.* They are masters of St. Margaret, and Trinity-island, which lay south, and where they are successful in their pearl fishery.

*Q.* Which are the Danish possessions?

*A.* They have the two small islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas, which lay east of Porto-Rico.

*Q.* Is there any thing more to be remarked on those islands?

*A.* Several of them had been declared neutral, and left to the natives. The most remarkable are, St. Vincent and Dominica; but by the treaty made between France and England in 1762, it was agreed that they should share them; so that those two islands belong at present to England; and the French have taken possession of St. Lucia and Tobago. It is further remarked, that as the European establishments in those islands  
are

are distant from each other, and spread all over the country, the governors inhabit only the fortresses built for the protection of those colonies.

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## LESSON CIV.

### Of SOUTH AMERICA.

Q. WHAT is South America?

A. It is a great peninsula, which is joined to North America by the isthmus of Darien, or Panama, and terminates in a point: its figure greatly resembles that of Africa. It comprehends seven principal countries; *Terra Firma*, in the north; Peru and Chili, in the west; the country of the Amazons in the middle; Brazil, in the east; Paraguay, and the Magellan country in the south.

Q. Where is *Terra Firma* situated?

A. *Terra Firma* lies between the north and south seas, having the gulf of Mexico on the north, Peru, and the country of the Amazons on the south. It is thus called because it was the first which Columbus discovered;—he called

called it by that name, to distinguish it from the islands on which he had landed. It is a very hot climate, and often fatal to the Europeans. There is no winter in that country; except the rainy season, which lasts four months. The soil is fruitful, and they feed abundance of cattle. It produces gold; silver, pearls, balm, the best cocoa, and excellent tobacco, which they cultivate in the village of Verrine. The country is watered by the famous river Oronoko, which runs from south to north, and falls into the north sea.

Q. To whom does *Terra Firma* belong?

A. The greatest part of it belongs to the king of Spain, who sends a governor there. The French and the Dutch have some few possessions; the rest is in the hand of the natives, whom the Spaniards have not yet been able to subdue.

Q. How is the country divided?

A. The river Oronoko separates it into two parts; *Terra Firma* proper, or Golden Castille, in the west; and Guiana, or Caribane, in the east. *Terra Firma* proper contains several provinces, or governments, the largest of which are Panama and Carthagena, in the north, New Andalusia, in the east, and New Granada, in the south. The capital of all *Terra Firma* is Santa-Fé de Bogota, in New Granada. It is an archbishoprick, and the seat of the sovereign tribunal of the whole country.

Q. What cities are there in the government of Panama?

A. The two principal cities are, Panama, a bishoprick, and port-town, on the South Sea, on the isthmus of that name; and Porto-Bello, a sea-port on the gulf of Mexico. Panama is a rich and trading city; it is there they unload all the riches they bring from Peru and Chili, and convey them over the isthmus to Porto-Bello; they are, after that, embarked in the Spanish galleons, which bring the European merchandize to America; there is then a famous fair held at Porto-Bello, which is looked upon as the staple for the traffic of the two worlds. The English were the only people, who, during a time, had the privilege of sending a ship yearly to that fair; they had gained that privilege by the treaty of Assiento, but they have since lost it.

Q. Which is the capital of the government of Carthagena?

A. The city of Carthagena; which is large, rich, and well-fortified; the inhabitants trade chiefly in pearls, which they fish for near the shore. This place was besieged and taken by the French, in 1695, who carried off a considerable booty. The English also besieged it in 1742, but were obliged to leave it, after losing a great many men.

Q. What are the Spanish possessions in New Andalusia?

A. They



*A.* They are only masters of the coasts of that country; the interior part is inhabited by the natives, who are their formidable enemies. Cumana is the capital.

*Q.* What is observed of *terra firma* in general?

*A.* It was for many years infested by a set of pirates, called buccaneers, most of which were French and English; their courage made them formidable: after having taken Porto-Bello, and other places, from the Spaniards, in the northern sea, they crossed the isthmus, and besieged Panama, which they took, under the command of Morgan, their chief; but, at the beginning of the present century, they abandoned their excursions at sea, and are now established in some of the French and English islands, where they turned ox-hunters.

*Q.* What is Guiana?

*A.* It is a country only known on the coasts, where the Europeans have some establishments; the natives being still masters of the inland country; they are a savage, cruel, and vindictive people. The French possess the island of Caienne, near the coast of Guiana, called Equinoxial France; the Dutch have rich colonies at Surinam and Berbices, which produce sugar, tobacco, and coffee. The experiments made in 1672, on the weight of the air, by Mr. Richer, have given reason to presume that the earth is rather flattened towards the poles.

L E S S O N CV.

SOUTH AMERICA *continued.*

*Of PERU, and the Country of the AMAZONS.*

Q. WHAT is the situation of Peru?

A. It is the most considerable country of all America; it extends along the coasts of the South Sea, having *terra firma* on the north; the Amazons country on the east; Chili on the south; and the South Sea on the west. It differs in soil and climate: near the sea there are extensive sandy plains, where it never rains; farther up the country they have fertile vales, bounded by a long chain of mountains, called the Cordeliers, which are the highest in the world; they separate into two chains, one east, and the other west; they are overspread with forests, and their summits are always covered with snow. The king of France sent academicians here in 1736, to measure the amplitude of a degree of the meridian on the equator.

Q. What does Peru produce?

A. Its richest productions are gold and silver, of which it contains more than any other part of the world; they have also quicksilver, and many other minerals; and likewise balm, and Peruvian bark.

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The country was formerly governed by very powerful emperors, called Incas of Peru, who had an absolute authority over their subjects. In 1513, a Spaniard, named Vincent Nugnez de Balboa, who was settled at Mexico, undertook to discover the country on the South Sea, and took possession of the isthmus of Darien, in the name of the king of Spain : but he fell a sacrifice to the jealousy of his enemies. Some years after, two other Spaniards, the one named Francis Pizarro, and the other Diego d'Almagro, having been informed that Peru contained immense riches, resolved, in 1524, to attempt the conquest of it. They took advantage of a war which then existed between Athabalipa and Huescar, two brothers, and sons of the last Incas ; they assisted the former to vanquish the latter, whom they made prisoner, and put to death ; after that they made themselves masters of Athabalipa, put him in irons, and though he had given a roomfull of gold for his ransom, they nevertheless put him also to death, in order to enjoy in quiet the fruits of their barbarity. As soon as they found themselves strong enough, they began to exercise the most unheard of cruelty on the natives, to force their riches from them ; but the conquerors, soon after, having different interests, disagreed between themselves, made war on each other, and both perished tragically, according to their deserts.

**Q.** To whom does Peru belong at present?

**A.** To the king of Spain, who keeps a governor there, and draws immense sums from thence: nevertheless the whole country is not subject to him, many of the inhabitants having preserved their independence; they inhabit the mountains, obey their chiefs, and are at perpetual war with the Spaniards, in remembrance of their former cruelties. There are great numbers of Spaniards settled at Peru, but they differ greatly, in language and manners, from those of their mother-country. Some of the natives are Roman Catholics, and others idolaters, who worship the sun.

**Q.** How is Peru divided?

**A.** Into three governments; which are, Quito in the north; Los Reyes in the middle; and Los Charcas in the south. The capital of all Peru is Lima, in the government of Los Reyes, an archbishoprick, and the residence of the viceroy; it is a large, rich, and populous city. It suffered greatly from an earthquake, in 1747, which demolished a great number of houses, and destroyed the port, called Calao. There is also Cusco, in the east, of the same government, a bishoprick, where the incas formerly resided, and where they had a magnificent, and immensely rich palace, with a superb temple, dedicated to the sun.

**Q.** What is met with in the government of Quito?

**A.** There



*A.* There is Quito, the capital, which is a bishoprick, and a well-built city; besides Gayaquil, a sea port, the staple of trade between Panama and Peru.

*Q.* What cities are there in the government of Los Charcas?

*A.* There is Plata, an archbishoprick, capital of the province; and Potosi, near which are the most productive silver mines: these, like all the other mines of Peru, are farmed out to individuals, who explore them at their own expence, and give to the king one fifth of the gold and silver they extract from them.

*Q.* What is the country of the Amazons?

*A.* That name is given to the interior part of the country, bounded on the north, by *terra firma*; on the east, by Brazil; by Paraguay, on the south; and by Peru on the west. It is watered by the river Amazon, which rises in Peru, and runs a course, from east to west, of more than eight hundred leagues, and falls into the North Sea. Francis Avellana, a Spaniard, was the first who followed it from its spring to its mouth. M. de la Condamine, a French astronomer, made the same journey in 1746. No other part of the country is known, than that along the river. Orellana gave it the name of the Amazons country, from having met, near the banks of the river, a great number of armed women, who seemed desirous of opposing his passage. The Spaniards have missionaries on the

upper part of the river, and the Portuguese towards its mouth. They carry on a great slave-trade in that country. The natives are wild and unfociable; they lead a wandering life in the forests, with which the country is covered; they live on the produce of their chase and fishing, and pass their nights in cotton beds, suspended between two trees.

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## LESSON CVI.

*SOUTH-AMERICA continued.*

*BRAZIL and PARAGUAY.*

Q. WHERE is Brazil situated?

A. It lies in the most eastern part of America; extending along the coast of the Northern Sea, having the Amazon country on the west; and Paraguay on the south. The air is pure, and the climate temperate; the soil produces Indian wheat, and various fruits, with sugar, tobacco, cotton, and staining woods, of which there are whole forests; they have also the root ipecacuanha, and rich diamond mines. Alphonfus Cabral, a Portuguese, discovered it by chance, in 1501, and took

took possession of it in the name of his master. The Dutch availing themselves of the revolution which subjected Portugal to the Spaniards, drove the latter out of Brazil : but the Portuguese recovered it in 1655. It is still in the possession of the king of Portugal, who makes great sums of the diamonds, and keeps a viceroy there. But he is only master of the coasts ; the interior parts are still in the power of the natives, who are wild and cruel : they live independent, and have hardly any religion. They eat their prisoners, and are continually employed in hunting and fishing.

*Q.* How is Brazil divided ?

*A.* Into northern and eastern coasts, which are joined at Cape St. Augustin. The capital of all the country is San-Salvador, an archbishoprick and sea-port, in All Saints Bay. It is a rich, populous and trading city, the ordinary residence of the Portuguese governor.

*Q.* What other cities are there in Brazil ?

*A.* There are several, the chief of which are Saint Sebastian in the middle, which is a bishoprick, on the river Rio-Janeiro, and a very trading city. Olinde or Fernanbouc, in the east, known for those fine woods used by cabinet-makers for their inlaid works ; and Para, a bishoprick in the north, near the mouth of the river of the river of the Amazons. Towards the south of Brazil, and in the inland country, we find the

city of St. Paul, inhabited by fugitive slaves and robbers, whom the Portuguese have not been able to destroy, though they have compelled them to pay an annual tribute. They meet with many extraordinary animals in that country; among others that called *pegrittia*, on account of its slow motions. Their coasts abound in fish, among which is the flying-fish.

Q. What is Paraguay?

A. They comprehend under that denomination, all that country which has the Amazons on the north; Brazil on the east; Peru and Chili on the west; and the lands of Magellan on the south. The air is wholesome and temperate; the soil abounds in corn and fruits; their pasture lands are good; and they have a prodigious quantity of cattle. The sugar-cane and cotton grows there; and an herb called paraguay, which they use as tea. They have also gold and silver mines. There are several rivers which unite and form that called Rio de la Plata, or the Silver River, which crosses Paraguay from north to south.

Q. To whom does Paraguay belong?

A. The greatest part belongs to the Spaniards, who discovered it. The Portuguese have some few settlements, and the rest is inhabited by the natives, who are mild and tractable people. It is divided into three principal provinces; Paraguay proper in the north; Tucuman in the west;



west ; and Rio de la Plata in the south. The capital of all the country is Buenos Ayres, a bishoprick, at the mouth of la Plata. It is a trading, and well-built city, the residence of the Spanish governor. The other remarkable cities are, San-Jago, a bishoprick, capital of Tucuman; and Assumption, also a bishoprick, on the river Paraguay, which falls into la Plata. It is to be observed, that the Jesuits had established a great number of missionaries in the center of Paraguay, who had formed several small boroughs, of which they were spiritual and temporal sovereigns; the inhabitants of these boroughs were entirely subject to the Jesuits, who did not permit them to have any intercourse with the Spaniards, and drew a great revenue from their labour; but the Jesuits having been expelled from all the Spanish territories, as well as from those of many other powers, they lost their new possessions, and were, with the others, obliged to follow their chiefs into Italy.

## L E S S O N CVII.

SOUTH AMERICA *continued.*CHILI *and the Lands of* MAGELLAN.

Q. WHERE is Chili situated?

A. It lies south of Peru, and extends along the coasts of the South Sea, as far as the Magellanic lands, having Paraguay on the east. The air in general is cold, on account of its vicinity to the Cordeliers. It is warmer in the vallies, which produce corn and wine. They feed numerous herds of cattle: its chief produce is the purest gold, copper, and woods for staining. They have sheep of an enormous size, which serves as beasts of burden. It was discovered by Diego d'Almagro, one of the conquerors of Peru, in 1539. He took possession of it for the king of Spain, but was not able to reduce the natives entirely, who are hardy and valiant; they have withdrawn into the interior part of the country, where they obey their caciques, who are perpetually at war with the Spaniards, and have, at different times, gained considerable advantages. They are Pagans, and pay a sort of worship to the Devil, to keep him from doing them hurt.

Q. How

Q. How is Chili divided?

A. Into three provinces; Chili proper, in the north; Chicuito in the east; and the Imperial in the south. They have each of them a governor subject to the viceroy of Peru: the capital of Chili is San-Jago, a bishoprick, in the province of that name. The other cities are the Conception, a bishoprick, in the Imperial; and Baldivia, a sea-port, near which are mines of the purest gold.

Q. What are the lands of Magellan?

A. They comprehend under that denomination all those countries which form the southern point of America, south of Paraguay and Chili. They are thus called because they were discovered by Ferdinand Magellan, who was then seeking, and was the first who found a passage from the north to the south seas. They are cold countries, produce little, and are but thinly inhabited. The eastern coast is entirely destitute of trees, but the pasture lands are excellent;—there are a vast quantity of European bulls and cows, which are daily encreasing. The inhabitants are savages called Patagonians; those who inhabit near Paraguay are very dextrous, and good horsemen. Their chief employ is hunting bulls and cows, which are grown wild; they course for them, and take them with the most astonishing dexterity, and sell their hides to the Spaniards.

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Q. What

Q. What has been remarked of the Patagonians?

A. The first navigators who visited that country, reported that they were of a gigantic stature, which has been long a subject of doubt.—But it has been confirmed, by the squadron sent into the South Sea by the king of England, under the command of Admiral Byron. They have a sort of sheep called Vigon, which gives that fine wool called Spanish wool; and a bird called penguin, which has fins instead of wings. The Spaniards had erected two forts on the coasts, to protect the passage of the strait of Magellan; but as that strait is long and dangerous, they have entirely abandoned them; and now their ships pass that of Le Maire, which lies more to the south.

Q. Are there any islands near those coasts?

A. Very few about South America; the largest are the Malouines, east of the strait of Magellan, on which the Spaniards have a settlement; the island of Chiloe, on the coasts of Chili; and Juan-Fernandez at some distance from the latter.



F I F T H   P A R T.

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L E S S O N   C V I I I.

*Of the Lands within the POLAR CIRCLES.*

2. **W**HAT lands remain to be examined?

*A.* Besides the four parts of the world already described, there are yet some regions, not comprised in the two continents, which are found towards the extremities of the northern and southern parts of the globe. Those regions are called the Polar Lands, or the Unknown World; they are thus denominated because they are not sufficiently known to determine to which continent they belong. Those lands were discovered successively, some by chance, and others by navigators sent in search of them. They have carried their researches much farther towards the north than the south. They are divided into  
two

two principal classes; the Arctic Polar Lands in the north; and the Antarctic Polar Lands in the south

*Q.* Which are the Arctic Lands?

*A.* The principal are these four; Greenland, Spitzberg, Nova Zembla, and the land of Jesso. Greenland is thus called from the green moss found on its coasts. It is a vast country, situated between Europe and America, and west of Iceland: its boundaries on the north are not known. The coasts of this country were discovered by the Norwegians in the ninth century, who founded a colony there; but having ceased trading with the natives, it was soon destroyed. In the sixteenth century, an Englishman named Forbisher, having undertaken a voyage to Greenland, discovered a part of the country quite different from that already known. From thence it comes, that it is divided into Old and New Greenland. Within a few years the king of Denmark has established a considerable colony in Greenland, and his subjects trade with the natives.

*Q.* What is the nature of the country?

*A.* It is a cold climate; the sea is frozen four months in the year: it abounds in pasture: they meet with black and white bears, foxes and martens. The Greenlanders, who in stature resemble the Laplanders, feed on raw fish and flesh; their favourite liquor is whale blubber: they  
live

live in caverns under-ground, and cloath themselves with the skins of sea-dogs. Near the coasts great numbers of whales are seen continually ; some of which are two hundred feet long. The English, Dutch and Danes, take great quantities of them every year; and of the fat make an oil called blubber.

Q. Where is Spitzberg situated ?

A. It lies north of Lapland ; it is the most northern country yet known. It was discovered by the Dutch towards the end of the sixteenth century. The southern coast, on which they fish for whales, is the only known part of that country. The cold is so excessive, that it has been impossible to penetrate farther : it is not even known whether it is a continent or an island.

Q. What is Nova Zembla ?

A. It is an island north of Russian Tartary, from which it is only separated by the strait of Weigatz. The cold is very great : the Samoiedes a people of Tartary, hunt and fish there in summer. This island was discovered by the Dutch, as they were seeking a passage to the East Indies, through the north, to avoid going round the Cape of Good Hope. Captain Hemskirke passed the winter there in 1596.

Q. What is the land of Jesso ?

A. It is a country that lies east of Asia, and north of Japan. We have learnt by the last discoveries

coveries that it is composed of two islands tributary to the emperor of Japan, and that his subjects trade there for blubber and furs. The Russian navigators have discovered, not long since, a great number of islands, of more or less consequence, which they divide into three classes relatively to their position, which form an archipelago between Asia and America.

Q. What do you call the Antarctic Lands?

A. They are lands very little known, situated south with regard to Europe, and distant from both continents: they are, New Guinea, New Holland, Terra Australis, Terra del Feugo, and New Zealand: they lay in the order here mentioned, from east to west.

Q. Where is New Guinea situated?

A. It lies east of the Molucca islands: the country is so called from the resemblance the natives have with those of Guinea, in Africa. The inland country is not known. Near the coasts the soil is fruitful. The Dutch trade with the natives; but the extent of the country is not known.

Q. What is New Holland?

A. It is a very extensive country, situated south of the Moluccas; it has been discovered in the present century; the inhabitants are blacks, very ill made, and live miserably; the English have a settlement on the eastern coast, called Botany Bay, where they send their convicts.

Q. What



Q. What is the Terra Australis?

A. It is a name given to all the lands situated south of Africa; part of the coasts were discovered, in 1503, by Captain Gonneville, who was thrown upon them by a tempest; since that the Europeans have endeavoured to form establishments there, but without success, from the intractable disposition of the natives. A French navigator discovered another coast, in 1734, which he called the Circumcision.

Q. What is the Terra del Feugo?

A. It is an island which lays south of America, from which it is only separated by the strait of Magellan: it was thus named from Magellan having, in the night, seen flames issue, as it were, out of the earth. This island is covered with mountains of an horrid aspect: it is terminated on the south by Cape Horn and the strait of Le Maire, which is now the most frequented passage from the north to the south sea.

Q. What is New Zealand?

A. It is a land in the south, which lies west of Terra del Feugo,—and of which very little is known.

Q. What islands are there in the South Sea?

A. They are in great numbers, but few are known, except those called the Solomon islands. Some French navigators, in 1768, discovered some lands till then unknown,—principally the island of Otaheite, of which the inhabitants are  
mild

mild and tractable. The English have also made several discoveries in those seas. In the Indian sea we also find the islands of St. Paul and Amsterdam, east of the Cape of Good Hope, which the Dutch visit on their voyages to India.

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## LESSON CIX.

### SEAS *and* NAVIGATION.

Q. WHAT addition does the description already given require?

A. As geography is a description of all the surface of the globe,—and as that surface is composed of earth and water, we cannot refrain giving a short idea of the sea, and its different parts. All the different seas communicate to each other; so that, properly speaking, there is but one sea, commonly called the Ocean.

Q. Which are its principal parts?

A. We have the Frozen ocean, north of Europe,—the Eastern ocean, east,—and the Indian ocean, south of Asia; the Atlantic ocean, west of Europe and Africa; the North sea, east,—and the South sea, west of America. These different portions

portions of the ocean have also their particular names from the countries whose coasts they water: thus we say, the German sea, the Spanish sea, &c. It is remarked, that some parts of the ocean are lost under-ground; the chief of which are the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the Red and the White seas.

Q. What is the Mediterranean?

A. It is a sea which lies between Europe and Africa; it begins at the strait of Gibraltar; its principal parts are, the gulf of Lyons, the Tuscan sea, the gulf of Venice, and the Archipelago: the sea of Marmora and the Black sea, communicate to the Mediterranean by the straits of Constantinople and Gallipoli.

Q. What is the Baltic?

A. It lies between Sweden, Denmark, and Poland; it begins at the strait of the Sound, and forms three gulfs,—that of Bothnia, in the north,—that of Finland, in the east,—and that of Riga, in the south.

Q. Where is the Red sea?

A. It lies between Asia and Africa; and begins at the strait of Babel Mandel: it has no remarkable gulf, except that of Suez, at the bottom, towards the north.

Q. What is the White sea?

A. It is a gulf situated north of European Russia, and east of Lapland: it has nothing remarkable.

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Q. Which

Q. Which are the principal gulfs of the ocean?

A. They are in great numbers; the chief of them are, the gulf of Persia, between Persia and Arabia; that of Bengal, between the two peninsulas of India; the gulf of Mexico, east,—and that of California, west of America.

Q. Which are the principal straits in the ocean?

A. Besides those already spoken of, there are in Europe,—the English channel, between France and England. In Asia,—the straits of Sunda, between the islands of that name,—and the strait of Weigatz, in the north. In Africa,—the strait of Babel Mandel. In America,—the straits of Hudson and Anian, in the north; and that of Magellan, in the south.

Q. What is observed on the waters of the ocean?

A. It is remarked, that they have a periodical rise and fall, which is observed every six hours, and is called the flux and reflux of the sea; others have irregular currents near the coasts, and others form a whirlpool, the most remarkable of which is Maelstrom, in Norway.

Q. How are the winds known at sea?

A. In order to find them with precision, they draw a circle, which they divide into four equal parts, and those are the four cardinal points; they then subdivide each of those into eight, which gives thirty-two equal divisions, which  
are



are as many different winds, to which they give names in proportion to their distance from the cardinal points, either east, west, north, or south; the most remarkable winds are those called trade-winds,—which, in some parts, as in the Canary islands, always blow one way; and another, called monsoon, in the Indian sea, which regularly blows six months east and six months west.

*Q.* By what means is the depth of the sea determined?

*A.* By means of a weight at the end of a line, which is let down to the bottom, and the line measured after; the weight being first overspread with tallow, in order to know of what nature is the sand; this operation is very requisite, to avoid the rocks and sand-banks on which ships are sometimes wrecked; they make use, with great success, of sea-charts, and the mariner's compass, which serve to direct their course when they have lost sight of land.

*Q.* Is it possible to sail round the globe?

*A.* It is not only possible, but has been done several times, by different navigators. A voyage of that kind may be performed in the following manner:

Suppose a ship sets sail from the coasts of France or England, and sails west, to the Canary islands, where it will have the trading winds, which always blow from east to west, and advancing towards the south, will find the coasts of

Brazil and Paraguay ; from thence they will cross from the north to the south sea, going through the strait of Le Maire, and round Cape Horn ; after which they will sail up the coasts of Peru and Mexico ; and then crossing the south sea, will reach the Philippine and Molucca islands, and so to those of Sunda ; and taking advantage of the monsoons, while they blow west, will cross the Indian ocean, and come near to the island of Madagascar, and from thence to the Cape of Good Hope ; will set sail along the coasts of Africa to Cape Verd and the Canaries, and from thence to the port from whence they set out. The same may be done by sailing at first to the east instead of the west.

*Q.* What is further observed ?

*A.* That the Russians have found a passage to the eastern ocean, through the frozen ocean ; but the air is so intensely cold, that it is almost impracticable. The best navigators have been seeking, for a long time past, a passage from Europe to the south sea, by the north of America.

## LESSON CX.

*On the COURSE of the PRINCIPAL RIVERS.*

Q. OF what are we to treat in this lesson?

A. As the intimate knowledge of the course of rivers, gives a great insight to that of the interior part of a country, and fixes the exact position of the cities through which they pass, it is necessary to treat of them separately: but we shall here confine ourselves only to the most considerable.

*Rivers of ENGLAND.*

We have already said that the principal rivers of England are, the Thames, the Severn, and the Humber.

The Thames is a great and navigable river, composed chiefly of the Isis and Thame, of which the Isis is much the largest, and runs the longest course, rising on the confines of Gloucester, S. W. of Cirencester,—becomes navigable at Lechlade,—continues its course to Oxford, where it receives the Charwel,—runs S. E. to Abingdon and Dorchester, where it receives the Thame,—and after visiting many other cities, passes through London, and continues its course to the sea, after receiving the Medway near its mouth. The

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Thame,

Thame, of itself, is a small river, which rises near Tring, in Hertfordshire, and is an unnavigable stream till it receives the Isis at Dorchester.

The Severn takes its rise in Montgomeryshire,—runs east into Shropshire,—passes by Shrewsbury,—turns south,—passes by Bridge-north, Worcester, and Gloucester, and discharges itself into the Bristol channel; it receives forty rivers in its course, and frequently overflows the countries through which it runs.

The Humber is formed of the Trent, the Ouse, the Derwent, and many other streams; it divides Yorkshire from Lincolnshire, and falls into the German sea at Holderness.

#### *Rivers of SCOTLAND.*

The Tay runs from west to east, and divides Scotland into north and south, rising from the loch or lake of Tay, in Breadalbinsshire, running east through Athol,—turns south east,—visits other cities, and falls into the frith of Tay.

The Clyde rises in Annandale, and running north west, through Clydesdale, passes Lanerk, Hamilton and Glasgow; then falls into the frith of Clyde, over against the isle of Bute.

#### *Rivers of IRELAND.*

The Shannon is the largest river of Ireland, and rises in the county of Leitrim,—runs north



to south, dividing the provinces of Leinster and Connaught, — then turning south west, runs through the province of Munster, — passes by Limerick, and falls into the Atlantic ocean, between Clare and Limerick, after a course of 143 miles, without including its windings.

### *Rivers of RUSSIA.*

Russia, in Europe, has four capital rivers, — the Wolga, the Dwina, the Don or Tanaïs, and the Nieper.

The Wolga, one of the greatest rivers in Europe, rises in the province of Kzeva, — runs from west to east, — passes by Twer, Jeroslaw, and Casan, — then directs its course south, and falls into the Caspian sea below Astracan.

The Dwina is formed by the junction of two rivers near Ostioug, — runs from south to north, and falls into the White sea, at Archangel, before which it divides into two branches.

The Don issues from the lake Iwan, south of Moscow, runs at first from north to south, — then from west to east, — and afterwards takes its former direction, and falls, by three branches, into the sea of Asoph, a little above the city of that name.

The Neiper takes its rise in the south of Russia, — runs from north to south, — crosses the eastern part of Lithuania, — waters the cities of Smolensko and Kiow, — then falls into the Black Sea, at some distance from Oczakow.

*Rivers of POLAND.*

The principal rivers of Poland are the Bog, the Neister, the Vistula, and the Niemen.

The Bog takes its rise in the north of Podolia, which it crosses, and falls into the Black Sea, in the south, between the Nieper and the Neister.

The Neister rises in the mountains of Crapacs,—runs south,—separates Poland from Moldavia,—visits Bender and Belgorod, and falls into the Black Sea, near the latter of those cities.

The Vistula, or Wesel, rises in the mountains south of Silesia,—runs first east, passing by the city of Cracow,—turns north, and passes by Warsaw, and continues its course in the same direction till it falls into the Baltic, below Dantzick.

The Niemen arises in Lithuania,—at first runs from east to west,—turns towards the north,—visits Grodno and Towno, and then discharges itself by several branches into the Baltic.

*Rivers of BOHEMIA.*

The principal rivers of Bohemia are the Moldaw, the Elbe, the Oder, and the Morave.

The Moldaw crosses the greatest part of Bohemia proper from north to south,—visits Prague, and falls into the Elbe, near Milnick.

The Elbe has its source in Bohemia, on the frontiers of Silesia,—runs first from north to south,—

south,—then takes a contrary direction, and enters Germany,—waters Dresden, Wirtembourg, Magdebourg, and Hambourg, and at last, by several branches, falls into the ocean.

The Oder takes its rise in the Carpathian mountains, on the confines of Hungary,—runs from north to south through the greatest part of Silesia,—visits Breslaw and Francfort,—enters Pomerania, which it separates into two parts,—passes by Stettin,—forms several branches above that city, and discharges itself into the Baltic.

The Morave rises in the county of Glatz,—crosses Moravia from north to south, and falls into the Danube, at some leagues from Presburgh.

#### *Rivers of GERMANY.*

The principal rivers in Germany are the Danube, the Rhine, the Weser, the Elbe, and the Oder. We have already described the two latter.

The Danube, the largest river in Europe, has its source at Donesching, in Swabia, and runs from west to east,—visits several cities in its course, both in Bavaria and Austria, viz. Ulm, Donawert, Ingoldstat, Ratibon, Passau, and Vienna, as well as Belgrade, in Servia :—after which it crosses Hungary and the northern part of Turkey; and after having received many  
rivers

rivers in its course, divides into several branches, and enters the Black Sea.

The Rhine takes its rise in the country of the Grisons, in Switzerland,—crosses the lake of Constance,—forms a cataract near the city of Schaffhausen, which it visits, as it does also Basil, Mentz, and Cologne,—takes its course directly north,—crosses the circles of the Lower Rhine and Westphalia,—enters the United Provinces, where it separates into five branches, the least of which only retains the name of the Rhine, and loses itself in the sands below Leyden.

The Weser rises in the circle of Franconia, and is formed near Munden, by the rivers Verra and Fulda. It waters the city of Bremen—then runs toward the north, and falls into the German Sea.

#### *Rivers of HUNGARY.*

The remarkable rivers of Hungary are the Drave, the Save, and the Teisse,—all of them fall into the Danube. The Drave takes its rise in Stiria, and separates Hungary from Slavonia. The Save rises in Carniola, which it crosses from west to east. The Teisse has its source in the mountains Crapacs, and runs from north to south.

#### *River of SAVOY.*

Savoy has but one remarkable river, which is the Isere. It rises in the Tarantese,—waters the  
cities



cities of Moutiers, Montmelian, and Grenoble, in Dauphiné, and discharges itself into the Rhone, above Valence.

*Rivers of SWITZERLAND.*

The chief rivers in Switzerland are the Rhine, the Rhone, the Aar, and the Reufs. The first has been described in the article of Germany.

The Rhone rises in the mountain la Fourche; it first runs from east to west,—crosses the Valais, and then the lake of Geneva,—is lost for more than a league under-ground,—appears again near Seyffel,—separates Bresse from Dauphiné,—enters France,—takes its course toward the south,—crosses the provinces of Lyons Dauphiné, and Provence, and falls into the Mediterranean west of Marseilles.

The Aar issues from Grimselberg,—crosses the lakes of Brientz and Thoun,—receives the Reufs and the Limmat,—waters the cities of Berne and Soleure, and falls into the Rhine opposite Valdislut.

The Reufs rises in mount St. Gothard,—enters the lake of the four cantons,—visits Lucerne, and falls into the Aar near Windisch.

*Rivers of the LOW COUNTRIES.*

The Low Countries are watered by three capital rivers, the Macse, the Scheld, and the Sambre.

The

The Maese has its source in Lorraine, and directs its course towards the north,—visits the cities of Verdun, Sedan, Liege, and Maestricht. It enters twice one of the branches of the Rhine, and forms the island of Bommel,—then separates into two branches below Dordrecht, one of which forms the port of Rotterdam, and discharges itself into the German Sea.

The Scheld. shews itself near Catelet, in Picardy,—passes Cambrai, Valenciennes, Tournay, Ghent and Antwerp;—from thence it continues its course towards the north,—separates into two branches, one runs east by Bergem-op-Zoom, and the other west, and separates Dutch Flanders from Zealand,—forms the Hont;—soon after which they both are lost in the ocean.

The Sambre rises also in Picardy,—visits Landrecy, Maubeuge and Charleroi,—then falls into Maese at Namur.

#### *Rivers of* LORRAINE.

Lorraine has two principal rivers, the Maese, already described, and the Moselle, which issues from Mount Faucilla, which is one of the mountains of Vosgue,—passes by Toul, Mentz, Thionville and Treves,—then falls into the Rhine near Coblentz.

#### *Rivers of* FRANCE.

The most most remarkable rivers of France are the Seine, the Loire, the Garonne, and the Rhone,

Rhone,—the latter has been described among those of Switzerland.

The Seine rises near the borough of Seine, in Burgundy, and runs from east to west,—crosses Champagne, the isle of France, and Normandy,—visits the cities of Troyes, Paris and Rouen,—then falls into the English channel at Havre de Grace.

The Loire has its source in the mountains of Vivarez,—it runs towards the west, and crosses several provinces of the kingdom, as the Nivernois, the Orleanois, part of Anjou and Brittany, visits the cities of Nevers, Orleans, Blois, Tours, Saumur, and Nantes, and falls into the ocean a little below the latter.

The Garonne rises in the Pyrenees, and crosses part of Guienne, receives the Dordogne, and does not, till then, take the name of the Garonne; it visits Thoulouse, Agen, and Bourdeaux, and then enters the ocean, after forming two branches.

#### *Rivers of PORTUGAL.*

The rivers common to Portugal and Spain are, the Douro, the Minho, the Tagus, and the Guadiana.

The Douro rises in Old Castille, which it traverses from east to west, as it does also the kingdom of Leon; after which it enters Portugal, visits the city of Miranda, and falls into the ocean near Oporto.

The

The Minho takes its rise in Galicia, which its waters from north to south, separates that province from Portugal, and enters the ocean below Tui.

The source of the Tagus is in the eastern extremity of Arragon; it traverses all New Castille, from east to west, enters Portugal, waters Estramadura, forms a bay opposite Lisbon, and then falls into the ocean: in its course it visits Toledo, Alcantara, and Santaren.

The Guadiana rises in New Castille, and directs its course towards the south,—traverses Spanish Estramadura, enters Portugal near the city of Badajos, separates the kingdom of Algarva from Andalusia, and runs into the ocean.

#### *Rivers of SPAIN.*

The rivers appropriated to Spain are the Guadalquivir and the Ebro.

The Guadalquivir rises in the eastern part of Andalusia, which it crosses entirely; drawing towards the south, it visits the cities of Cordova and Seville, and then enters the ocean, by two branches, near St. Lucar.

The source of the Ebro is in a mountain, which separates the Asturias from Old Castille; it directs its course from west to east, borders Biscay and Navarre, crosses Arragon, visits the cities of Saragossa and Tortosa;—and then falls into the Mediterranean.

*Rivers*



*Rivers of ITALY.*

The principal of rivers of Italy are, the Pô, the Adde, the Adige, the Tessin, the Arno, and the Tiber.

The Pô issues from mount Viso, one of the Alps; it runs from west to south, and receives many rivers in its course; it crosses the Montferrat, the Mantuan, and the Ferrarois, and falls into the gulf of Venice by different channels. In its course it visits Turin, Casal, Placentia, and Cremona.

The Adige rises in the country of the Grisons, crosses the lake of Côme, and falls into the Pô, between Placentia and Cremona.

The Adde has its source in the north of Tirol, crosses the bishoprick and city of Trent, and also a part of the states of Venice; visits the cities of Verona and Ravigo, and falls into the gulf of Venice towards the east.

The Tessin has its source near Mount St. Gothard in Switzerland, crosses the lake Maggiore, and, running from north to south, visits Pavia, and then unites its waters with those of the Pô.

The Arno issues from the Appenine mountains, runs from east to west, crosses the grand duchy of Tuscany, visits Florence and Pisa, and loses itself in the Tuscan sea.

The Tiber also rises in the Appenines, crosses the states of the church, directing its course from north to south, and afterwards west; it passes near  
Perouse

Perouse and Orvietta, visits Rome, and discharges itself in the Mediterranean at Ostia.

*Rivers of TURKEY in EUROPE.*

Turkey in Europe has two principal rivers, the Danube, already described, and the Marizza; the latter issues from mount Hemus, runs from north to south, crosses all Rumania, visits Adrianople, and falls into the Archipelago.

*Rivers of ASIATIC TURKEY.*

Asiatic Turkey has two remarkable rivers; the Tigris, and the Euphrates.

The Tigris rises in Turcomania, runs south all the length of Diarbeck,—visits the cities of Diarbekir, Mosul, Bagdad, and Bassora, and falls, by several channels, into the gulf of Persia;—supposed to be one of the rivers which encompassed Paradise.

The Euphrates has its source in the mountains of Armenia, near the city of Erzerum; runs west of Diarbeck, and unites its waters with those of the Tigris, below Bassora.

*Rivers of INDIA.*

In Indostan there are two great rivers; the Indus, and the Ganges.

The Indus takes its rise in Mount Caucasus, runs from north to south, crosses all the Mogul empire, and falls, by seven channels, into the ocean.

The

The Ganges rises in the mountains of Great Thibet, runs from north to south, divides India into two peninsulas, receives in its course many other rivers, and enters also, by many channels, into the ocean, or Indian sea.

### *Rivers of CHINA.*

The principal rivers of China are the Hoang, and the Kiang.

The Hoang rises in a desert, west of China, which it crosses from west to east, and then discharges itself into the sea.

The Kiang also rises in the west of China, and runs through the middle of it, turning towards the east, and then enters the sea.

### *Rivers of TARTARY.*

In Great Tartary there are four considerable rivers; the Oby, the Jenisea, the Lena, and the Amur.

The Oby takes its rise in the south of Russian Tartary, which it crosses from south to north; it serves as a boundary between Europe and Asia, and discharges itself into the Frozen Ocean, near the strait of Weigatz.

The Jenisea runs from south to north, crosses also Russian Tartary, east of Oby, and has its mouth in the Frozen ocean.

The Lena runs in the same direction as the two preceding, east of the Jenisea.

The Amur rises in Chinese Tartary, which it crosses from west to east, and falls into the gulf of Amur, which is the oriental ocean.

### *Rivers of AFRICA.*

The principal rivers of Africa are, the Nile, the Niger, the Senegal, and the Zara.

The Nile, according to some geographers, rises in the mountains of Abyssinia; and, according to others, in those of the moon; it runs from south to north, traversing Egypt in all its length; and forming several cataracts, visits the cities of Souene, Girge, Cairo, Rosetta, and Damietta, and falls, by two channels, into the Mediterranean.

The Niger, which gives its name to Nigritia, —crosses that country from west to east—and loses itself in the lake of Bornou.

The Senegal, which also waters Nigritia, runs from east to west, and has its mouth in the ocean.

The Zara, whose source is unknown, crosses Northern Congo, and running from east to west, falls into the ocean.

### *Rivers of AMERICA.*

North America has two great rivers; St. Lawrence and Mississippi.

St. Lawrence, in Canada, crosses that country from west to east, drawing towards the north,—receives in its course a great number of smaller rivers,  
—forms



—forms many cataracts,—visits the cities of Montreal and Quebec,—and falls into the gulph of St. Lawrence, which is a part of the Northern Sea.

The source of the Mississippi is unknown;—that river runs from north to south,—crosses the western part of Canada and Louisiana,—then discharges itself in the gulf of Mexico.

### *Rivers of SOUTH-AMERICA.*

In South America there are three large rivers; the Oronoko, the River of the Amazons, and Rio de la Plata.

The Amazons river rises in Peru,—runs first towards the north, and turns afterwards to the east;—it crosses the Amazons country in all its extent,—and in its course, of more than eight hundred leagues, receives a great number of lesser rivers,—and then falls into the ocean, near cape North.

The Oronoko crosses *terra firma* from south to north,—separates Golden Castille from Guiana,—and loses itself in the Northern Sea.

Rio de la Plata, or the Silver River, crosses all Paraguay from north to south—receives the rivers Paraguay, Parana, and Uruga,—visits the city of Assumption, and discharges itself into the ocean below Buenos-Ayres.

END OF MODERN GEOGRAPHY.

## ABSTRACT OF THE SPHERE.

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### LESSON I.

*General Idea, and Principles of the SPHERE.*

Q. **W**HAT is the sphere ?

A. The sphere is an instrument, composed of several pasteboard circles, and intended to represent the motions of the celestial bodies, and their reciprocal positions with respect to the earth.

Q. What is understood by the study of the sphere ?

A. It consists in the knowledge of its different parts,—of its utility,—and of the reasons for which it was invented.

Q. Of what use is that science ?

A. It not only enriches the mind with the knowledge of things curious in themselves, but tends also to the perfection of geography and navigation:  
it

it moreover serves to resolve the most interesting phænomena.

Q. Why is the study of the sphere subjoined to that of geography?

A. Because the former gives a more exact knowledge of the earth; and determines, with greater precision, the situation of its different parts.

Q. What is the principal object of that study?

A. The end proposed by that science called the sphere, is the observation and representation of the various motions of the celestial bodies; and to examine the advantages that may be drawn from thence, with regard to the globe we inhabit.

Q. What is astronomy?

A. We call astronomy that science which treats of the planets, and, in general, of all celestial bodies, of which the elements, or principles are contained in the sphere.

Q. Does it not make part of another science?

A. Yes; it constitutes parts of a science called cosmography, which describes all created bodies.

Q. Is it an ancient science?

A. Very ancient:—The Chaldeans were the first people who applied themselves to it; it is to them we owe the invention of the zodiack, and the assemblage of the stars into constellations.—We shall say more of this in the sequel.

Q. Who were the people that improved it after them?

*A.* The Egyptians next applied themselves to astronomy, and after them the Phœnicians; who, being the first that ventured on the sea, directed their attention to the planets, and particularly to the polar star, for the use of navigation.

*Q.* Who was the first philosopher who cultivated astronomy?

*A.* Thales, the Miletian; he enriched the country with the intelligence he had acquired from the orientals, and rendered himself famous by the prediction of a solar eclipse.

*Q.* Who were the people who afterwards distinguished themselves in that study?

*A.* The Europeans applied to it with great diligence and success, especially in the present and last century, in which very important discoveries have been made.

*Q.* Name me some of the most eminent astronomers?

*A.* Those who have acquired the most fame are, Ptolemeus, who lived in the time of the emperor Adrian; Copernicus, a Prussian; Gallileo, a Florentine; Tycho-Brahé, a Dane; all in the sixteenth century; Cassini, La Hire, Huyghens, and a great number of others in this.

*Q.* How is the universe divided by Astronomers?

*A.* It is considered relatively to astronomy, as divided into two separate parts; viz. the celestial world, which comprehends the heavens, with the  
stars



stars and planets; and the terrestrial, or sublunary world, which is that on which we were placed.

*Q.* How are those parts represented?

*A.* By the terrestrial and celestial globes, made use of by astronomers, to facilitate the intelligence of their axioms.

*Q.* What are the heavens?

*A.* We conceive the heavens as an extensive space, which surrounds and contains all the bodies under the creation. The azure colour which strikes our eyes, can only be attributed to the immensity of space between the heavens and us, the bounds of which have not yet been ascertained.

*Q.* What figure are the heavens supposed to have?

*A.* Astronomers conceive them to be a round concave space, because the infinite interval between us and the stars, makes them appear all equally distant from our eye, and placed in a concave sphere, of which our earth is the center.

*Q.* How ought this abridgment of the sphere to be divided?

*A.* In order to give it its due extent, it is necessary to divide it into three principal parts.

First,—By giving a general idea of all the celestial bodies, according to the principles and observations of astronomers, and as far as it may be necessary for the end we have proposed.

Secondly,—To examine more minutely that instrument called the sphere, and shew in what man-

ner the most interesting phenomena may be rendered perceptible, by the help of that instrument.

Thirdly and lastly,—To shew the many advantages with which those discoveries may be attended, for the advancement of geography and navigation.

## P A R T I.

### *Of CELESTIAL BODIES.*

#### LESSON II.

*On Celestial Bodies in general, and of the fixed Stars.*

Q. By what means has the knowledge of the celestial bodies been acquired?

A. Astronomers have not only made themselves acquainted with those bodies, but also of all their phenomena, by the constant and indefatigable observations they have made on them; and from which they have drawn consequences. These observations may be disposed in two classes; the first named natural or common, because they may be put in practice by almost every capacity: the other particularly reserved for astronomers, who have  
made

made these second observations in consequence of the first.—For example, the rising and setting of the sun is a common observation ; and the motion of the celestial bodies round their axis, is an astronomical observation.

Q. What do you understand by celestial bodies ?

A. I mean the sun, moon and stars, which shine in the heavens.—The stars may be considered, in consequence of their number, size, motion and the light they emit.—Ptolomeus, and the ancient astronomers, reckoned only 1022 stars, which they discovered with the naked eye ; but since the invention of the telescope, a much greater number has been discovered. Since navigation has explored countries till then unknown, the number has been greatly encreased ; at present 1200 stars are seen without the aid of instruments ; but only one half, at most, are seen at one view.

Q. Are there not some extraordinary stars ?

A. There are some which only appear at certain regular times and seasons : others, called comets, which, after having been visible some time, gradually disappear, or remove at a greater distance from the earth.—For a long time comets were thought to forebode some public calamity ; but now we have all reason to believe, they have their periodical course like the other stars.

Q. How are the stars known and discerned ?

A. In

*A.* In order to attain that knowledge, astronomers have collected a certain number of stars into one body, to which they have given the name of constellation, and each constellation has its particular name:—Those names which are purely arbitrary, have been taken from the fables of the heathens, or the rusticity of our forefathers. Thence proceed those figures under which the constellations are represented on the celestial globe.—The ancients knew but fifty-two constellations, but now sixty-two are known; twenty-three north, and twenty-seven south; the other twelve are found in the zodiac; the last are the most interesting for the globe we inhabit, and we shall speak more at length of them in the second part of this work.

*Q.* What is observed on the light of the stars?

*A.* All the stars have not an equal splendour, some appear clouded; and we observe in the heavens a white path, which the ancients called the milky-way; but by the use of the telescope, it has been found, that this path is a numerous assemblage of stars, which are not separately discernible on account of their proximity. Astronomers divide the stars into six classes, relatively to their magnitude; they say that a star is of the first, second, &c. but this division is only apparent, and founded on the degree of vivacity, with which they are resplendent.

*Q.* Which are those that appear the largest?

*A.* The



*A.* The most remarkable are Sirius, or the Dog-star, which is the largest and most beautiful of all; the Bull's-eye, Venus, Regulus, &c. Astronomers frequently make use of these for their observations. As to the motion of the stars, though they seem continually to move from east to west, there are some who keep the same order between them, and others which change their situation. For this reason we call fixed stars those which always keep at the same distance from each other; and we call planets, or roving stars, those which do not keep that order, either between themselves, or with regard to the fixed stars.

*Q.* What difference do you observe as to their light?

*A.* That the light of the fixed stars is bright and sparkles; whereas that of the planets is soft and quiet. As the fixed are at a very great distance from our globe, they are supposed all placed in what we call the firmament, where they form the constellations aforesaid.

*Q.* Have the fixed stars absolutely no motion?

*A.* By comparing the observations of the ancient and modern astronomers, it has been found that they retrograde a little to the east, but only fifty seconds in a year.

*Q.* Are the planets marked upon the globes?

*A.* As they do not keep the same relative position, and not being able to ascertain them a place, they are not marked on the globe.

*Q.* How

Q. How many planets do you reckon ?

A. Six ; Venus, Mercury, the Sun, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.—They place the Sun among the planets, because it seems to have the same motion. As it has been observed that some planets were eclipsed by others, it is reasonably imagined that they are not equally distant from us.—Astronomers place the planets in the order as above, beginning with that which is nearest the earth.

Q. What order do they take with regard to the sun ?

A. Mercury and Venus being nearer the Sun than our globe, are called inferior planets ; Mars, Jupiter and Saturn being more distant, are called superior : then comes, though at an immense distance, the fixed stars and constellations ; and when they say that the Sun is in such or such a constellation, it signifies that we see the sun opposite that constellation, or that it occupies a space between us and the constellation.

### L E S S O N III.

#### *Of the* P L A N E T S.

Q. WHAT is the sun ?

A. The sun is a luminous body, that is to say, that it produces light and heat, without the assistance

ance of any other.—The strongest eye cannot fix it; for which reason it cannot be observed even with the telescope, without previously blacking the glass with smoke.—Certain spots of different dimensions have been remarked on its surface, which prove that it revolves on its axis in about twenty-seven days.

Q. What happens sometimes with regard to the sun?

A. It sometimes happens that in the day-time, and with a clear sky, we are deprived of the light of the sun, at times entirely, and at others only in part, for more or less time; and then they say, we have an eclipse of the sun.

Q. When does that happen?

A. That never takes place but when the moon happens to be precisely between the sun and the earth; and consequently hinders the light of the sun from reaching our globe.

Q. What is the moon?

A. The moon is an opaque, or dark body, which has in itself no light. Its distance from the earth is much less than that of any other planet: it has several large spots which may be seen with the naked eye.

Q. Do we always see the moon in the same manner?

A. No; we sometimes see only a portion or part of an enlightened border, which is called the crescent, and which gradually encreases till its whole

whole circle appears illuminated ; then it is called the full moon, or the opposition ; after which, that enlightened part decreases daily, till it becomes invifible ; then it is called the new moon or conjunction.

Q. What consequences do you draw from thence ?

A. These observations prove that the moon receives its light from the fun ; and that one half of it is always illuminated, which half is not always turned towards us ; and, in fhort, that the moon continually changes its pofition, with regard to the fun and the earth. We alfo remark that the moon does not turn on its axis ; that the days and nights are equally long, and that each of them measures half a lunar month.

Q. Are there not alfo eclipses of the moon ?

A. Yes ; and they happen when the earth is precifely between the fun and the moon, its fhadow falls upon that planet, and hinders it from receiving the light of the fun, which makes it appear either in part or totally dark to our eye.

Q. At what time do we fee eclipses ?

A. We never fee eclipses of the moon but when it is in its full ; nor thofe of the fun but in the new moon : the firft are much more frequent than the fecond, becaufe the moon is lefs than the earth, which has been furnifed from the duration and frequency of its eclipses, as alfo that the earth is much lefs than the fun.



Q. What is known of Mercury ?

A. Its vicinity to the sun, in whose rays it is continually seen, is the reason why the observations made on that planet are very imperfect.

Q. What is Venus ?

A. That planet, which is easily known by its size, and whitish light, appears night and morning; for which reason it is called Phosphorus and Hesperus.—It has its phases like the moon, and several spots on its surface.

Q. What is Mars ?

A. Mars is known from the other planets by its red colour: it has also spots, and its phases like Venus.

Q. What has been observed of Jupiter ?

A. That planet has stripes of a much lighter colour than the rest of its surface, and has a complete rotation on its axis in ten hours; and what is still more remarkable, it has four small stars which turn continually round it, and for that reason are called the satellites or moons of Jupiter.

Q. What is remarked of Saturn ?

A. Saturn has also five satellites which turn round it, and is besides encompassed by a ring, which makes it appear under different forms.

Q. What conclusion do you draw from these observations ?

A. We infer from thence, that the five planets Venus, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn, are opaque bodies, like the moon and the earth; and  
that

that they have no light but that which they borrow from the sun.

Q. What do you observe on the light of the fixed stars ?

A. That there is not the least doubt of their being luminous bodies; and that they cannot receive any from the sun, on account of their immense distance from it, and from the earth.

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## P A R T II.

*The SPHERE, and its PARTS.*

### L E S S O N IV.

*Of the SPHERE in general.*

Q. HOW do astronomers divide the Sphere ?

A. Into natural and artificial, or armillary.—The natural is the Universe itself,—and the artificial is that instrument of which we have been speaking, and which serves as a representative of the first, in the manner it appears to our eye.

Q. What are we to observe first ?

A. The first thing to be observed is, that the circles and points on this instrument are pure inventions,

ventions, imagined to render the motions and revolutions of the stars more palpable to our senses.

Q. Why was it found necessary to imagine those points?

A. By reason, that as the heavens and the earth appear to us in spherical forms, it would not have been possible to divide the heavens, nor find any determined position, without the help of those circles.

Q. What are the terms made use of in that science?

A. As all those terms are borrowed from geometry, it is necessary to define them here, for the intelligence of those who are not familiar in that science.

Q. What is a straight line and a curve line?

A. A line is called straight when all its component parts follow the same direction. It is a curve line when those same parts have each a different direction.

Q. What is a perpendicular and what an oblique line?

A. A straight line which falls upon another, is called a perpendicular, when it does not incline more to one end than to the other,—and it is oblique when it does incline.

Q. What are parallel lines?

A. Two lines either straight or curve, are parallel, when all the corresponding parts of the

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one

one are at an equal distance from the corresponding parts of the other.

Q. What is a circle?

A. It is a curve line, whose different parts are perfectly uniform, and whose extremities meet; the whole of which is called circumference.

Q. What is an arc, or segment?

A. It is a portion of a circle, of more or less extent.

Q. What is the center of a circle?

A. It is a point equally distant from all those of the circumference.

Q. What is the diameter?

A. It is a straight line which passes through the center, and whose ends terminate at the circumference.

Q. What is the radius?

A. It is half the diameter, from the center to the circumference.

Q. What is the axis of a circle?

A. It is a straight line, which passes through the center, and is perpendicular to the plan of the circle.

Q. What are the poles of a circle?

A. They are the extremities of the axis, or two points taken out of the circle itself, equally distant from all the points of the circumference.

Q. How is the circumference divided?

A. The circumference of a circle, great or small, is divided into 360 equal parts, called degrees,



degrees, each degree is subdivided into sixty minutes, and every minute into sixty seconds.

*Q.* What is an angle?

*A.* An angle is composed of two lines, which have different directions, and that meet in one point.

*Q.* How is an angle measured?

*A.* The size of an angle does not depend on the length of the lines which compose it, but of its opening; it is measured by the number of the degrees of the arc, or that part of the circumference contained between the two lines.

*Q.* How many sorts of angles are there?

*A.* Three; the right angle, which measures a quadrant, or quarter of the circle, or ninety degrees; the acute angle, which measures less than the right angle; and the obtuse angle, which measures more than the right.

*Q.* What is to be remarked on that?

*A.* That all right angles are necessarily equal between them; but acute and obtuse angles may vary as to their opening, without ceasing to be either acute or obtuse.

*Q.* Which is the first astronomical observation?

*A.* The first remark is, that the heavens, with all the celestial bodies, move, or seem to move in a circular and regular manner, and that they revolve in twenty-four hours. It is also observed, that the stars trace circles more or less large, as they are more or less distant from two fixed

points in the heavens, called the poles of the world.

*Q.* How is the sphere contrived?

*A.* In consequence of those observations, the artificial sphere is so contrived as to turn on its own axis; and when put in motion, every point of its surface will be remarked to describe circles, two only excepted, which remain motionless.

*Q.* What is the first use of the sphere?

*A.* The use of it in general, is to shew that motion of the stars called diurnal,—because it operates daily; and common, because they all appear subjected to it.

*Q.* How is the earth represented?

*A.* By a little ball, placed in the center of the machine; because that it appears, from the judgment of our senses, to be placed in the center of the universe?

*Q.* Are we not in this deceived by our senses?

*A.* If we are, the error proceeds from the very small dimensions of the globe we inhabit, when compared with the vast extent of the whole universe; but that error is rectified, by only changing reciprocally the places of the sun and the earth.

*Q.* What further observations on that subject?

*A.* Whether the stars turn round the earth, or that the earth turns on its own axis in a contrary direction, which is now generally believed, the appearances in the heavens are the same, and the demonstrations on the sphere are not less certain.

LESSON

## L E S S O N V.

*On the POINTS of the SPHERE.*

Q. WHAT is to be considered on the sphere?

A. Besides the axis of the world, we are to consider the various points and circles of which that instrument is composed.

Q. What is the axis of the world?

A. It is an imaginary line, which, passing through the center of the universe, joins the two immovable points of the heavens already remarked. It is represented by a brazen wire, round which the sphere turns, as on an axle-tree.

Q. What are the extremities of that axis?

A. They are those two immovable points in the heavens, called the Poles; it has been remarked, that one of those points was placed near a constellation, called the Little Bear, because that one of the stars which compose it, describes but a very small circle; from whence it has been inferred, that one of the two poles was in the center of that circle.

Q. How is that pole called?

A. It is called the Arctic Pole, from the Greek word *arētos*, which signifies a bear; it is also called the Northern or Septentrional Pole, because the little bear is composed of seven stars, which the Romans called *septem triones*.

Q. Where is the other pole?

A. After one was fixed, it was easy to determine the position of the other, when considered that it ought to be in direct opposition to the first, and half a circumference, or ninety degrees distant.

Q. How is that pole called?

A. The Antarctic Pole, which signifies opposite to the arctic; it is also called the Southern, or Meridional, because that at noon the sun is always seen on that side.

Q. What other points are observed on the sphere?

A. There are two other points,—one of which marks the place where the stars rise,—and the other that where they set. Those two points are always directly opposite each other.

Q. What do you mean by the rising and setting of the stars?

A. A star is said to rise, when, by its diurnal motion, it begins to appear to us; and it is set, when it has totally disappeared.

Q. How do you call those points where the stars rise and set?

A. The place where they rise is called the east, and the other west; those points are marked on the sphere, one quadrant, or ninety degrees distant from the poles.

Q. Are those points always the same?

A. As



*A.* As it has been observed that the sun and the planets do not always appear to rise and set opposite the same fixed stars, we have been obliged to distinguish two different places under the same denominations of east and west. We call the summer east and west, those points nearest the arctic pole,—and the east and west of winter, those nearest the antarctic pole. It is the reverse of that for those who inhabit the southern part of the globe.

*Q.* What name is given to the four points united?

*A.* The east and west points, and the two poles, are called the four cardinal points, because they determine the position of all the others.

*Q.* How are they found?

*A.* If you suppose a man turned towards the north, (a position easily found,) he will have the east at his right, the west at his left, and behind him the south.

*Q.* What other points do you remark on the sphere?

*A.* There are two points, called the Zenith and the Nadir; the first placed perpendicularly over every persons head,—and the second under his feet, in direct opposition to the first.

*Q.* What do you observe of the zenith?

*A.* When we say that a star passes our zenith, it signifies that at a certain determined instant, that star passes perpendicularly over our heads.

F f 4

*Q.* What

Q. What must we infer from what has been said?

A. That the two poles are constantly invariable; that the east and west vary in proportion as we advance towards either of them; and that our zenith changes at every step we make.

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## LESSON VI.

### *On the Circles of the SPHERE.*

Q. How many sorts of circles are there in the sphere?

A. As it has been observed that the stars delineate circles, more or less large in proportion to their distance from the poles, two sorts of circles have been distinguished on the sphere, the one called the great, and the other the small circles.

Q. How are those circles distinguished?

A. The great circles are those which have the same center as the sphere, and which divide it into two equal parts. The small circles have not the same center, and divide it into unequal portions.

Q. Of

Q. Of how many circles is the sphere composed ?

A. Of ten, six great and four small. The six great circles are the horizon, the meridian, the zodiac, the equator, and the two colures. The horizon and the meridian are represented as immovable. The others are moveable, and turn within the first. The four small circles are the two tropics, and the two polar circles,

Q. What width have those circles ?

A. They are all to be considered as being very narrow, except the zodiac, to which astronomers have given a greater width, for a reason we shall adduce hereafter.

Q. What is the horizon ?

A. The horizon, thus called from a Greek word which signifies to terminate, is a great circle which separates the sphere into two parts, or hemispheres ; the one superior and visible, the other inferior, and invisible to us.

Q. How many horizons do astronomers discern ?

A. Two ; the astronomical, or celestial horizon, which is also called the rational ; the other, terrestrial, or sensible, which bounds our view every way at sea, or in an extensive plain ; the greatest extent of which is calculated to be about sixty geographical miles. Its poles are the Zenith and Nadir,

Q. What

Q. What is the position of the sensible horizon?

A. It is always parallel to the rational, and distant from it by half the diameter of the earth.

Q. Of what use is the rational horizon?

A. It fixes the moment of the rising and setting of the stars. We begin to perceive them as soon as they are above that circle, or in the superior hemisphere; and become invisible to us as soon as they are below the horizon, or in the inferior hemisphere.

Q. What other advantages are derived from that circle?

A. It divides the artificial day into two equal or unequal parts;—it determines the diurnal and nocturnal arches, or the length of the days and nights. It is on this circle that are marked the four cardinal points.

Q. What is the natural and artificial day?

A. Astronomers reckon the natural day from the moment the sun rises, to that when it appears again in the same place, after having completed its revolution, which it performs in twenty-four hours. The artificial day is the time in which we enjoy the light of the sun, or that time which it remains above the horizon; it varies with the seasons, and the different parts of the globe we inhabit.

Q. What is the meridian?

A. It



*A.* It is a large circle which passes through the poles of the world, and divides the sphere into two equal portions, one east and the other west.

*Q.* Why is it thus called?

*A.* Because it marks noon, or half the day; and midnight, or half the night, for all the inhabitants of the earth. So that this circle determines half the space in which the sun or the stars move, from the moment of their rising to that of their setting. The meridian also serves to mark the utmost elevation of the stars on the horizon, which happens when they are under that circle. In fine, it is by the meridian we find the different elevations of the pole for every part of the globe; because that those elevations are measured on an arch of that circle, as we shall see hereafter.

*Q.* Is there but one meridian?

*A.* Every place on the earth has its particular meridian; but it must be observed, that we are always under the same meridian if we travel in a direct line from one pole to the other. On the contrary, we change our meridian at every step, when we go from east to west; which proves that those who live east of us have noon before us, and that we have it sooner than those who live more west; which also shews that the meridian may serve to measure time and distances.

## L E S S O N VII.

*The Circles continued.*

Q. WHAT is the zodiac?

A. It is one of the great circles, sixteen degrees broad, which furrounds, and cuts the sphere obliquely.

Q. Why was this circle imagined?

A. The reasons why this circle is become necessary on the sphere, are founded on three important observations, made by the astronomers on the motions of the planets.

Q. What are those observations?

A. The first is, that the sun and the other planets have, besides their motion from east to west, one which makes them retrograde towards the east, with more or less velocity, but always in a regular manner. That motion has been ascertained by observing, that a planet which, on a certain day, had set at the same time as some remarkable fixed stars, was seen to set later a few days after; which proves the retrogradation of the planets towards the west.

Q. What is the second observation?

A. That the planets are not always at the same distance from the poles, but that they rise and  
set

set nearer, or farther from them. This variation, in astronomy is called declination, or latitude of the planets. It is measured by an arch of the meridian; it is constant and uniform, and never exceeds certain bounds.

Q. What is the third observation?

A. That all the planets do not move in the same orbit, or circle;—there are two of them, for example, which rise the same day in two different points of the horizon, and describe parallel circles.

Q. Of what use then is the zodiac?

A. It is designed to shew the proper motion of the planets. Its oblique position shews their greatest declination, which is never more than twenty-three degrees and an half, either north or south. Its width, which is sixteen degrees, embraces the course of all the planets. It is further to be observed, that as the planets trace ovals, and not circles, their distance from the earth is not always the same.

Q. What is meant by the words Apogee, and Perigee.

A. The word Apogee means the greatest distance of a planet relatively to the earth; and Perigee the least: thus, when we say the sun is in its apogee, that signifies, that it is in that point of its circle the most distant from our globe.

Q. When does either of these happen?

A. The

*A.* The sun is in its apogee on the 21st of June, and in its perigee the 21st of December.

*Q.* Why then have we winter at this last period?

*A.* Because that the sun at that time is much less elevated on the horizon; and that the days are very short. There is another line, or circle, supposed to pass in the middle of the zodiac, which line represents the real course of the sun, which is never out of that circle. It is called the Ecliptic, because the sun and the moon meet in it when there is an eclipse.

*Q.* Ought there not to be an eclipse of the sun at each conjunction, and one of the moon at every opposition?

*A.* That might be set down as an invariable rule, if the moon had its regular course in the ecliptic; but the circle which it traces only cuts that line into two points, and is sometimes five degrees distant from it.

*Q.* What particular points are remarked in that circle?

*A.* We observe four; the two solstitial points, which shew the greatest declination of the planets; and the two equinoctial, which are found at the points of intersection of the two circles, the equator and the ecliptic.

*Q.* How is the zodiac divided?

*A.* Into twelve equal parts, thirty degrees asunder; each division contains one of the signs,



or constellations; six of which are in the north, and six in the south.

Q. What names are given to those signs?

A. They are generally known by the following Latin names:—*Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius, Pisces*: the six first in the north, and the others in the south.—In order to aid the memory, the Latinists have disposed them in the two following lines:—

*Sunt Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo,  
Libraque, Scorpius, Arcitenens, Caper, Amphora, Pisces.*

Q. Whence comes the zodiac?

A. It is taken from a Greek word which signifies the path of animals, because most of the signs represent some animal.

Q. How are the signs counted?

A. They are counted from west to east, beginning with Aries. The sun travels over them all in about three hundred and sixty-five days, and thus completes his revolution in what is called the year. In consequence of that, every sign of the zodiac corresponds to one-twelfth part of the year; and consequently, as said before, is thirty degrees, which is the twelfth part of three hundred and sixty, the complement of degrees in a circle. So that if the sun retrograded exactly one degree every day, the year would have  
pre-

precisely three hundred and sixty days, and each month thirty ; but it has been observed that to complete his revolution, the sun took up three hundred and sixty-five days and six hours, wanting eleven minutes.

Q. By what compensation are those six hours accounted for?

A. That those six hours may be exactly calculated ; one day is added to the year every fourth year ; and that is called biffextile, or leap year ; that day is added to the month of February : nevertheless, as there are eleven minutes less than the six hours, and that in four hundred years, those eleven minutes would make three days ; we suppress three biffextiles every four centuries ; which is done by omitting the biffextile the first year of three centuries consecutively.

Q. What difference is there between the solar and lunar year ?

A. The lunar month having, as we said before, but twenty-nine days and a half, the lunar year is about eleven days shorter than the solar.

Q. What is the Julian kalendar ?

A. It is the manner of reckoning the year, according to the correction made by Julius Cesar, who introduced the biffextile every four years.

Q. What is the Gregorian kalendar ?

A. It is the new style, or manner of counting the year, after the method of Pope Gregory XII.

who, to give the year the greatest precision possible, took off three biffextiles every fourth century.

Q. When was that correction made ?

A. In 1582, and in the month of October of the same year, the eleven days in advance were taken off; which makes the difference between the old and new style. There are some Protestant states in the north, who do not follow the Gregorian correction,—and it is not many years since England adopted it.

## LESSON VIII.

*The Circles of the Sphere continued.*

Q. WHAT is the equator ?

A. It is a great circle equally distant from either pole, and which divides the sphere in two equal parts, one north and the other south.—

This circle is intended to represent the diurnal motion of the sun and planets, which daily describe circles parallel to the equator; and more

or less distant from it, according to the place in the zodiac where they rise. As the equator is equally distant from both the poles, it serves to determine the east and west with precision ;— and also the greatest declination of the planets, which are counted, as said before, from that circle, on an arc of the meridian.

Q. In what manner does the zodiac meet the equator ?

A. The zodiac forms two points of intersection with the equator ; one in the first degree of Aries ; and the other in the first of Libra. When the sun rises in either of those two points, the circle which he traces is the equator itself ; then it happens that the days and nights are equal, the nocturnal arc having the same length as the diurnal ; because that the equator is cut in two equal parts by the horizon. Those two points are called the equinoxes, for which reason the equator is also called the equinoctial line. The equinoxes happen, one on the 21st of March, and the other the 21st of September, which commence spring and autumn. In fine, the equator serves to measure time, because that the sun, in one hour, goes over the twenty-fourth part of his diurnal revolution, which is fifteen degrees of the equator.

Q. What are the colures ?

A. They are two circles which reciprocally cut each other at right angles, at both the poles ;  
and



and serve to support the other circles of the sphere. Their name is taken from a Greek word, which signifies mutilated or imperfect; because that in astronomy no use is made of those circles entire, but only of an arc, or portion of their circumference.

Q. How are they distinguished?

A. That of the colures which passes those two points, where the zodiac cuts the equator, is called the colure of the equinoxes. The other, which passes the two points when the zodiac is at the greatest distance from the equator, is called the colure of the solstices. They serve also to mark the greatest, or least declination of the planets, when the colure is in the plan of the meridian.

Q. What are the two tropics?

A. They are two circles parallel to the equator; each of which is twenty-three degrees and a half distant from it; one north and the other south. Those two circles are formed by the revolution of the two most distant points of the ecliptic from the equator. They take their names from a Greek word which means return; because that when the sun has traced those circles, he advances no more towards the poles, but returns towards the equator. The two points of the sun's greatest declination being one in the first degree of Cancer, and the other in the first of Capricorn; one of those circles is called the

tropic of Cancer, and the other the tropic of Capricorn; the first near the arctic pole, and the second near the antarctic.

Q. What are the solstices?

A. They are the two points formed at the tropics by the sun's utmost declination; because that the sun having attained those points, seems, for some days, to stop there without either advancing towards the poles, nor retrograding visibly towards the equator.

Q. How many solstices are there in the year?

Two; the summer solstice, the 21st of June, under the sign of Cancer; and the winter solstice, the 21st of December, under the sign of Capricorn. At the summer solstice we have the longest day and at the winter solstice the longest night. It is quite the reverse with those who inhabit the southern hemisphere.

Q. When do the seasons of the year begin?

A. After what has been said of the four principal points of the ecliptic, it is evident that spring and autumn begin at the two equinoxes; winter and summer at the two solstices. The sun is three months in completing his course from the equator to the tropic of Cancer; and takes up the same time in returning to the equator. In the same manner he is three months in his course from the equator to the Capricorn, and as much in his return to the equator, which com-

completes the four seasons, and the twelve months of the year.

Q. What difference has been remarked with regard to the equinoxes and solstices?

A. It has been ascertained that the equinoxes take place sooner than they did formerly. That is what is called the *precession of the equinoxes*. It makes fifty seconds every year, and is caused by the impulsion of the fixed stars. It is lastly to be observed, on the chapter of the tropics, that those circles determine exactly what we called before, the east and west of summer, and the east and west of winter.

Q. What are the two polar circles?

A. They are the two smallest on the artificial sphere; and are twenty-three degrees and a half distant from the poles. The one is called the arctic polar circle, and the other the antarctic, in consequence of their vicinity to either of those poles. Those two circles serve only to mark the poles of the zodiac, which are as far distant from those of the equator, as the zodiac itself is from that circle.

L E S S O N IX.

*The different Positions of the Sphere.*

Q. WHAT is understood by the words, position of the sphere?

A. It signifies the various aspects under which the heavens and the planets present themselves to the different people of the earth, with regard to their situation on the globe.

Q. Why is it necessary to remark those positions?

A. It is by those observations only, that we can explain why all the inhabitants of the earth do not see the heavens in the same manner, and that they have not their days and nights equally long the whole year.

Q. How many positions are there?

A. Three positions, relatively to the horizon; the upright, the parallel, and the oblique.

Q. What is the upright sphere?

A. It is that wherein the poles of the earth are found on the celestial horizon; so that it is cut, at right angles, by the equator and the tropics. That is the position of the sphere, for those people who inhabit directly under the equator;



equator ; and as all the parallels of that circle are cut into two equal parts by the horizon, they live in a perpetual equinox. The people thus situated, see the sun pass twice a year over their heads, as it advances either north or south.—All the parts of the heavens are visible to them, and they successively see all the stars.

Q. What is the parallel sphere ?

A. It is that which is so placed that the poles are in the zenith and nadir ; and that the equator becomes parallel to the horizon. This is the position of the sphere, for the inhabitants of the poles, if there can be any in so cold a situation ; as in that position one half of the ecliptic is above the horizon, and the other below ; those people must necessarily have six months continual day, and six months night.

Q. Which is the oblique sphere ?

A. It is that which has one of the poles elevated above the horizon, and the other below it ; so that the circle of the horizon is cut obliquely by the equator. All those people, who like us, are placed between the equator and the poles, have the oblique sphere. As that position regards us more directly than the others, it merits to be well digested.

Q. How can one conceive that obliquity of the sphere ?

A. To conceive it well, we must suppose a man under the equator, where he sees the poles at the ho-

rizon, and that he travels directly north, and advances one degree; the result will be, that though the pole has not moved, it will appear to him one degree elevated, on account of the rotundity of the earth; and it really will be elevated one degree above the horizon; therefore, to represent the position of the sphere with regard to that man, it will be requisite to elevate the arctic pole one degree, and lower the antarctic as much, which will consequently give it an oblique position. It is evident that the more this man will advance towards the pole, the greater will be the obliquity relative to him; it may vary from one degree to ninety, and then the sphere will be parallel.

Q. What other remarks do you make on that position?

A. In that situation of the sphere all the parallels to the equator, which the sun describes in the course of the year, except the equator itself, will be cut into two unequal parts by the horizon; so that the diurnal arc will be bigger or less than the nocturnal; in consequence of which, all those who have the sphere thus disposed, have unequal days and nights the whole year, except those two days when the sun is in the equator, and then it is the equinox. The greater the obliquity, that is to say, the more we advance towards the poles, the greater also is the inequality of the days and nights.

Q. How do those people see the heavens?

A. The

*A.* The nearer they approach the upright sphere, the greater is the portion of the heavens they discover; and by the same reason that portion grows less as they advance towards the parallel. We must here observe, that astronomers calculate the length of the day by the time that passes between the rising and setting of the sun; but there is another light, called the Aurora, which precedes the rising of the sun; and another, called Crepuscule, which follows sun-set. The Aurora commences as soon as the sun has attained within eighteen degrees of the equator, below the horizon. Under the equator, the Aurora and Crepuscule are very short; because, as the sun rises and sets perpendicularly, it soon attains eighteen degrees. Those people, situated between the equator and the poles, have their crepuscules longer or shorter, in proportion as the sphere they inhabit is more or less oblique. In short, the inhabitants of the poles have very long crepuscules; it is supposed that they have them two months before the sun rises, and two months after it is set; so that, properly speaking, they have but two months night, part of which they have the light of the moon.

LESSON

L E S S O N X.

*The different Systems of the WORLD.*

Q. WHAT is meant by the system of the world?

A. We mean the order in which the astronomers have conjectured that the celestial bodies were placed; as they could not be convinced by experience.

Q. How many systems are there?

A. Three; the system of Ptolomeus, that of Copernicus, and that of Tycho-Brahé.

Q. What is the system of Ptolomeus?

A. Judging of the celestial bodies by appearances, he has placed the earth in the center of the universe, and supposed it to have no motion. He has, afterwards, placed the moon nearest the earth; then, gradually, Mercury, Venus, the Sun, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.

Q. How is the diurnal motion explained?

A. It is explained by giving to each planet its particular heaven, which is solid, though transparent. They are hurried away by a great circle, called the *primus mobilis*, which surrounds them all, and is supposed to move from east to west, and to revolve in twenty-four hours.

Q. Does



Q. Does he not suppose them to have a motion peculiar to themselves.

A. Yes; and he explains it by supposing also, that the impression of the *primus mobilis*, on these inferior circles, does not hinder each of them from preserving their own proper motion in a contrary direction; that is to say, from west to east.

Q. How is the declination of the planets determined on that system?

A. As to that, Ptolomeus has imagined crystal-line heavens, which move continually from south to north, carrying with them the planets, as far as twenty-three degrees and an half from the equator, towards either pole.

Q. What is your opinion of this system?

A. A system thus complicated cannot be admissible; for, besides that the excessive velocity of his *primus mobilis* and all those movable heavens, in contrary directions, are not easily conceived: there are two reasons which entirely destroy the system.

Q. What are those reasons?

A. The first is, that it has been proved, since the invention of the telescope, that Venus and Mercury turn round the sun; and, consequently, that the earth is not placed in the center of the universe. As a further proof of this, it has been observed, that those planets sometimes move from east to west, and at others from west to east; they have also been observed to remain as fixed, for a time, to one point of the heavens. From those remarks

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it is evident, that they do not not revolve round the earth as their center. The second reason is, that the solidity of the heavens, necessary for adopting that system, cannot agree with the motion of the comets, which are distinctly seen to pass from the heaven of one planet into that of another.

*Q.* What is the Copernican system?

*A.* It is a system with which the ancient astronomers were not entirely unacquainted; it consists in supposing the sun placed in the center of our vortex; after which he places Mercury, Venus, and the Earth, round which he supposes the moon to revolve; and, after that, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.

*Q.* How does it explain the diurnal motion?

*A.* By making the earth revolve on its own axis, from west to east, in twenty-four hours.

*Q.* How are the annual motion, and the declination accounted for.

*A.* They are both explained by placing the earth in the ecliptic, in lieu of the sun; by that method the diurnal revolution of the planets are only apparent; but they retain their proper motion from west to east: moreover the earth has a slow rotation, conformable to the axis of the ecliptic, which causes the precession of the equinoxes.

*A.* Do you approve of this system?

*Q.* So noble and simple a system is certainly more probable, and seems more conformable to the wisdom of the Creator; it accounts, with the

greatest facility, for all the phænomena, and has none of the defects found in that of Ptolomeus. It is not amiss to add, that the oftener we repeat these observations, the more that system is confirmed: It is now generally adopted by all the astronomers.

Q. What is Tycho-Brahé's system?

A. He holds a certain medium between the two preceding ones:—He attributes the diurnal motion to the earth, and the annual to the sun. That system is followed but by few; because it gives, without necessity, two centers to our vortex; besides the circles cross each other in contrary directions. On the whole, it is not easily comprehended.

Q. What is the general opinion of the fixed stars?

A. The astronomers suppose them to be as many suns, round which there are planets, that revolve, and receive their light and heat from them, in the same manner as the seven planets of our vortex receive their light and heat from the sun. This opinion, as well as that of the planets being inhabited, is not entirely void of probability.

Q. Does any thing seem to confirm that last conjecture?

A. With the help of the telescope, movable spots have been seen on the moon, which have disappeared all at once; it has been thought that they were clouds, which had dissolved in rain, as on  
our

atmosphere: if so, it is probable the moon is inhabited; therefore, if there are inhabitants in the moon, it may, with probability, be conjectured, that the other planets are also inhabited.

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## P A R T III.

### *Application of the SPHERE to GEOGRAPHY.*

#### L E S S O N XII.

##### *Of LONGITUDE and LATITUDE.*

*Q.* IN what manner is the sphere applied to geography?

*A.* As the sun and planets seem to revolve round the earth, and as our globe appears to be in the center of the universe, geographers have applied to it all the different parts of the sphere. From thence the earth, the same as the heavens, has its axis, its pole, and its great and small circles; we consider, therefore, all the parts of the sphere as applied to the surface of the earth, which is represented in a globular form, to which it approaches; and, to make this more palpable, we make use of a



map of the whole world, with its two hemispheres on a plain surface. The axis of the earth may be easily conceived to be the same as that of the heavens; its poles two points on its surface, through which the axis is supposed to pass.

Q. Of what use are the four cardinal points?

A. They serve to shew the situation of the different inhabitants of the earth, relatively to their positions, either east, west, north or south. It is also by their means that we can resolve why a man who travels east round the earth, on his return to the place from whence he set out, reckons a day more,—and he who goes the same voyage west, reckons a day less than those who have remained on the spot.

Q. Are the great circles delineated on the maps?

A. Yes; all the great circles, as the horizon, the meridian, the zodiac, and the equator, are found on the maps: the colures are omitted as useless. The two most essential are, the equator, which we will also call the equinoctial line,—and the meridian. The parallels of those two circles are found also on the maps, at ten degrees distance from each other. These circles serve to determine, with the greatest precision, the situation of every spot on the globe, with the help of longitude and latitude.

Q. What is longitude?

A. The

*A.* The longitude of a place, is the distance, in degrees, between a meridian, which is looked upon as the first,—and that of one of its parallels, which falls perpendicularly on a given place.

*Q.* What is latitude ?

The latitude of a place, is its distance, in degrees, from the equator to one of its parallels, which runs vertically over the given place.

*Q.* How is longitude counted ?

*A.* They count it from west to east, on the degrees of the equator. The reason for preferring to count it that way is, that if a place lies east of another,—for example, fifteen degrees,—we know immediately that in that place they are an hour later in the day than those who inhabit fifteen degrees more west. Another reason is, that the Ancients thought they knew the utmost boundaries of the earth towards the west, but were ignorant of its extent towards the east.

*Q.* Is there any fixed point in the heavens by which they count longitude ?

*A.* No particular point has been decided ; in consequence, arbitrary points, or places have been fixed upon for the passage of the first meridian. The French, by an act of Parliament of Lewis XIII., in 1634, have placed it at Ferro, one of the Canary islands ; the Dutch at the Pico of Teneriffe ; the Spaniards at Toledo ; the Portuguese at Tercera, one of the Azores ; and the English at Greenwich. To fix the longitude of

two

two different countries, they make use of the lunar eclipses, or rather the satellites of Jupiter, by observing precisely the hour at which the eclipse begins. If one supposes one of those places under the first meridian, or that its longitude be known, that of the other will be found, by considering that every hour difference between the two places is fifteen degrees on the equator.

Q. Can longitude be found at sea ?

A. It is nearly found by observations made on celestial bodies,—but it requires time and precision. Most of the nations of Europe have offered rewards for the discovery. Several able mechanics have presented the fruits of their researches ; but Mr. Harrison, a famous clock-maker, of London, some years ago invented a machine which had the greatest success, and for which he received from government a gratification of 10,000*l*.

Q. Are all the degrees of longitude equal ?

A. No ; they do not correspond to the same space all over the earth. You will observe on the maps, that the more we approach to the north, the meridian circles come nearer to each other, and consequently occupy less space.

Q. How is latitude counted ?

A. It is counted from the equator to either pole ; there is north and south latitude, so that we count ninety degrees on each side of the equator, to the poles. Latitude is easily mea-

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fured,—because that towards the north there is a fixed star near the pole, called the Polar Star, and which is part of the constellation called the Little Bear. As that star always shews the north, it was of great use in navigation before the invention of the mariner's compass, which serves their purpose better, as they can direct their course when that star is not seen. Latitude is counted on an arc of the meridian, by taking the height of the pole, by means of a graduated quadrant,—and every degree found on the quadrant, will be a degree of latitude.

Q. Is there any other means of finding it?

A. Yes; find the distance, in degrees, from the zenith of a given place to the nearest pole, and subtract that number from ninety, (the number of degrees in a quadrant,) the remainder will be the latitude of the given place.

Q. What is observed on that?

A. As the arcs of two circles,—one parallel to the equator, the other parallel to the meridian, and consequently perpendicular to each other, can only intersect in one point,—that point will mark the situation of the place required. From thence it follows, that as soon as the longitude and latitude of a place, on any part of the globe, are known, that place is easily found on the maps, which are made exact by that means only. On the globes and maps of the world, they mark the degrees of longitude on the equator,



tor, and those of latitude on the brazen circle, or first meridian. In well digested maps, longitude is marked top and bottom,—and latitude right and left.

Q. From whence come the names of longitude and latitude?

A. Those denominations come from the Ancients, who knew much more of the land from east to west, than from south to north; and counting their degrees from west to east all round the globe, gave the name of longitude to the greatest extent, and latitude to the other. They looked upon the Canary islands as the utmost extent of the world,—having, at that time, made no further discoveries.

## LESSON XII.

### ZONES *and* CLIMATES.

Q. OF what use are the small circles to geography?

A. If we suppose the two tropics and the two polar circles delineated on the surface of the globe, it will then be divided into five parts, called Zones: one torrid zone, two temperate

zones, and two frigid zones. The torrid zone, thus named from the excessive heat of the country, is separated into two equal parts by the equator, and extends north and south to the tropics; which, as said before, are twenty-three degrees and a half distant from the equator: after that, we find the two temperate zones situated north and south of the torrid zone, both of which extend as far as their respective polar circles. They are called temperate, because they do not experience an excessive heat in summer, nor the intenseness of cold in winter. The two frigid zones, thus called on account of the intense cold, are situated between the polar circles and either pole,—the one north and the other south. We are, with regard to that country, as the Ancients were with regard to the torrid zone; they thought that it was impossible it could be inhabited, on account of the heat; and we imagine, with more probability, that the two frigid zones cannot be inhabited at the poles, on account of the cold, which must be beyond description.

It has been observed, that if the poles of the ecliptic were the same as those of the equator, a perpetual summer would reign in the torrid zone,—a continual spring in the two temperate zones,—and an everlasting winter in the two frigid. We may conclude from thence, that no country in the world would produce the necessaries

ries of life. The declination of the ecliptic to twenty-three degrees and a half, is an efficacious remedy.

Q. In what other manner is the surface of the globe divided?

A. It is astronomically divided into climates; and that division is founded on the inequality observed in the length of the days, in the different countries situated more or less distant from the equator.

Q. What is a climate?

A. It is a part of the surface of the earth contained between two circles parallel to the equator,—and at the two extremities of which, a remarkable difference is found in the length of the days. To determine this difference, it is necessary to fix upon the longest day in the year, and observe how many hours the sun is above the horizon that day. Observe, that under the equator the days are always of twelve hours, and that under the polar circles the longest day has twenty-four,—which makes a difference of twelve hours between those two circles. This difference of twelve hours, is to be divided into halves, which will give twenty-four half hours, each of which is a climate; so that there are twenty-four climates of half an hour each, between the equator and either of the polar circles, which makes in all forty-eight climates, from one of the polar circles to the other.

Q. Where does the first climate begin?

A. If a person advances in a direct line from the equator towards one of the poles, and finds a place where the longest day is twelve hours and a half, he is then in the first climate; if of thirteen, he will be in the second, &c.

Q. By what means is the climate of a country known?

A. The number of hours contained in the summer solstice, or longest day, must first be observed; from that number of hours subtract twelve; reduce the remainder into half hours, and the result will indicate the climate. Example: on the 21st of June, which is our longest day, the sun is sixteen hours above our horizon; subtract twelve from sixteen, there remains four, which, reduced to halves, gives eight, and proves that we are in the eighth climate.

Q. What is the latitude of a place where the longest day in the year is twenty-four hours?

A. Their latitude must necessarily be sixty-six and a half, the remaining number of ninety, after having subtracted twenty-three degrees and a half for the declination of the ecliptic. The diurnal circle is then entirely disengaged from the horizon.

Q. What other climates are there between the polar circles and the poles?

A. As the length of the days increases rapidly from those circles to the poles, being twenty-four  
hours



hours in the first, and six months in the second the difference of climates in that part of the world is a whole month, instead of half an hour, as before mentioned. We reckon six climates of a month each, from a polar circle to the nearest pole, which in all is twelve of those climates. The whole surface of the earth is therefore divided into sixty climates, of which there are forty-eight of half an hour, and twelve of a month.

Q. Have all those climates the same extent?

A. The hour climates nearest the equator are more extensive than the succeeding; it is the same with those in the vicinity of the poles.

### L E S S O N XIII.

*The different situation of the Inhabitants of the EARTH.*

Q. WHAT other advantage is gained by the knowledge of the sphere?

A. Longitude and latitude puts us in a capacity of knowing the situation of the various people of the earth with regard to each other, with their seasons, and the manner in which they see the sun and planets.

Q. What denominations are given to those different people?

A. The terms used in geography to express the different situation with respect to the place where we are, are these three, *i. e.* the Periaeci, the Antaeci, and the Antipodes.

The Periaeci are situate under the same parallel, but opposite meridians. It is midnight with them when it is noon with us; but the length of days, and their seasons are the same. These are found by bringing any given place to the meridian, or brazen circle, then fixing the horary index, and turning the globe half round.

The Antaeci are situate under the same meridian, but opposite parallels. These have the seasons opposite to ours: it is the middle of winter with them when it is midsummer with us; but they have the same noon-day. These are found by counting as many degrees on the opposite side of the equator, as we are on this. Their longest day is our shortest, and so *vice versa*.

The Antipodes are under opposite meridians, and opposite parallels. Their seasons, days and nights are different. When it is summer with us, it is winter with them; when it is noon with us, it is midnight with them; and our longest day is their shortest. These are found by turning the horary index twelve hours from the given place, or turning the globe half round,  
and

and then counting as many degrees on the opposite side of the equator, as we are on this.

Q. What was the opinion of the ancients with respect to the last situation?

A. For a long time all those who dared maintain the system of the antipodes, were regarded as hereticks; but the discovery of America, and the voyages round the world, have confirmed that truth. Before these discoveries, the possibility of it had been ascertained by the tendency of all bodies from the surface to the center of the earth.

Q. In what other manner are the inhabitants of the earth considered?

A. They are considered under different denominations, from their shadows falling different ways at noon day, and are called Amphiscii, Afcii, Hetaeroscii, and Perischi.

The Amphiscii inhabit the torrid zone between the tropics. They have their shadows both north and south at noon-day. When the sun is south of them, their shadows are north; and when the sun is north of them at noon-day, their shadows are south. They are also called Afcii, because twice every year the sun is vertical at noon-day, and then they have no shadow.

The Hetaeroscii are those who inhabit either of the temperate zones, and have their shadows always one way at noon-day. Those in the northern temperate zone have their shadows always north, and  
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those

those in the fouthern temperate zone, have their shadow always south at noon-day. •

The Periscii are those who inhabit that part of the globe within the polar circles. These have their shadows every way, while the sun is above their horizon, all the twenty-four hours, as it is several months in the year when the sun is on that side the equator next them.

## LESSON XIV.

### *Of the Extent and Figure of the EARTH.*

Q. OF what other advantage is the knowledge of the sphere?

A. Besides the advantages already mentioned, it serves to determine the extent and figure of the habitable globe. To determine which, astronomers first endeavoured to ascertain its circumference; and began their operation by measuring the extent of land contained in a degree of a great circle, such as the meridian; and found it to contain 367,200 feet, which, divided by 5280, the number of feet in a statute mile, gives 69 miles 2880 feet, the  
number



number of statute miles in a degree of a great circle; which being multiplied by 360, the number of degrees in all circles, will give, for the circumference of the globe 25,036 miles 1920 feet, or 21,600 geographical miles, 60 to a degree, which last is most generally adopted, as it avoids fractions.

Q. What is the figure ascribed to the earth?

A. Astronomers give it a spherical figure, which they prove by several reasons; the first, taken from the unanimous accounts of the various navigators who have sailed round the globe in different directions, who all agree that they have found neither angles, nor any other obstructions in their passage; the second reason proceeds from the observations made on lunar eclipses, where the shade of the earth is traced on the face of the moon in the form of a semi-circle, which none but a spherical form can produce. Another demonstrative reason is taken from the observations made either by land or sea; by land, if we discover a mountain, the summit is always the first part seen; and at sea, the masts of a ship are seen a considerable time before the hull; which would not be the case if the surface was not convex. Those who reside in the east, see the eclipses begin later than those in the west. Those who travel towards either of the poles, see them rise gradually as they advance, which proves that the earth is round in all its directions.

Q. Is

Q. Is the globe perfectly round?

A. It was supposed for some time to be rather lengthened, towards the poles, in the shape of a lemon, but that surmise has been abandoned. In 1736, the king of France sent astronomers to the equator and towards the polar circles, who, after the most exact observations, and strictest mensuration, found that the earth was of a spheroidical figure, flattened towards the poles. To make themselves sure of their operations, they measured the number of feet in a degree near Paris, and, having repeated the same under the polar circle, found that a greater extent of land was requisite to correspond to a degree than what they had measured at Paris.

Q. What did they infer from thence?

A. They concluded that the curve of the earth was not precisely the same near the poles, as in its other parts, but that it was a little flattened. In consequence of all these observations, we may with safety assert, that the figure of the earth is now perfectly known, and conclude that its diameter, taken from one pole to the other, is less than if taken on the equator; but there is not a material difference.

L E S S O N   X V.

*The Principles of the SPHERE adapted to some Operations on the TERRESTRIAL GLOBE.*

Q. Do not the principles of the sphere serve to resolve some questions relative to geography?

A. Yes; with the aid of a terrestrial globe, several practical problems may be resolved: we will here give some of the most simple and interesting.

P R O B L E M   I.

Q. How can one find the latitude and longitude of a given place, as London?

A. Bring the given place to the brazen circle, which is looked upon as the first meridian, and the degree marked upon that circle, from the equator to the zenith, will be the latitude of the place, and that on the equator will shew its longitude.

Q. What is meant by rectifying the globe?

A. To rectify the globe for a place, is nothing more, after the latitude of that place is found, than elevating the opposite pole as many degrees above the horizon as those found for the latitude of the given place.

PROBLEM

## P R O B L E M II.

Q. How can one know the distance between two given places?

A. Place the two points of a compass on the given places, and, without changing its opening, carry it on the equator, and count the degrees contained between the two points, and that will give you the distance in geographical miles, sixty to a degree. It is to be remarked, that this rule will always hold good when distances are measured from the equator to either pole, that is to say in degrees of latitude; but, as observed before, the meridian lines draw nearer to each other as they advance towards the poles; consequently the degrees gradually diminish from the equator to the poles. There are tables which indicate those degrees for every part of the world.

## P R O B L E M III.

Q. Tell me how to find what hour it is in any place, when the hour is known in another: as, for example, when it is four in the afternoon in London?

A. Rectify the globe for the given place, and bring it to the meridian; then fix the hororary index at the given hour, and turn the globe, and bring the places successively to the meridian, and



the index will shew the hour at all the places required. Thus, when it is four o'clock at London, it will be five at Naples, six at Constantinople and Petersburg, ten at Bengal, eleven at Batavia, and near twelve at night at Pekin; twelve at noon at Barbadoes, and eleven in the morning at Port Royal in Jamaica.

#### P R O B L E M IV.

Q. How must one do to find the sun's place in the ecliptic on a given day; as, for example, the 18th of August?

A. Find that day in the circle of the signs on the horizon; you will find it answer to the twenty-third degree of Leo; then look for that same degree on the zodiack, and it will be the sun's place for that day.

#### P R O B L E M V.

Q. How must I do to find the rising and setting of the sun, on a given day; as the fifteenth of May, for a given place, as Paris?

A. Elevate the pole to the latitude of that city, seek the sun's place for that day; you will find it to be the twenty-fourth degree of Taurus; bring the place under the meridian, and fix the index at  
twelve,

twelve ; turn the globe to the east, till the twenty-fourth degree of Taurus touches the horizon ; turn it back to the west, till the same degree touches again ; observe the hour marked by the index in both operations ; you will find four and an half for the rising of the sun, and seven and an half for its setting.



F I N I S.